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Germans triumph in Rome

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FROM KEIR RADNEDGE IN ROME

GERMAN JUSTICE

Beckenbauer is the history man as Maradona and Co spoil the big day

Captain marvel Matthaus with the World Cup trophy and below Argentina's Ruggeri tries to stop match-winning Brehme.

SIMPLY, it was the Right Result.

West Germany were the best team in the 1990 World Cup Finals and they were by a long way better than a sorry bunch of ill-assorted Argentines on the big night here in Rome.

The Franz Beckenbauer legend thus expands still further. The Kaiser is the only man to have captained and managed a World Cup-winning side.

Not that this victory was as pretty a sight as West Germany's 2-1 defeat of Holland in Munich in 1974.

We had to endure a 'phoney war' first half, two Argentines sent off in the second – Pedro Monzon and Gustavo Dezotti thus creating Final history – and the decisive goal arriving courtesy of a highly contentious penalty.

A World Cup which had seen plenty of drama but not a lot of outstanding football thus ended with probably the Final it deserved.

As Beckenbauer's star continued to rise so Diego Maradona, the street urchin from Buenos Aires, failed to rise to the occasion.

He has to withstand enormous personal derision everywhere he goes and plays. Yet he does not help himself. No sooner had he tearfully received his runners- up medal than he walked straight on down out of sight to the dressing rooms.

Happily, most of his team-mates – including the likes of Batista and several others who had been manhandled away from referee Edgardo Codesal Mendez at the final whistle – stayed to watch the end of the ceremonials and applaud their West German conquerors.

This World Cup has had its heroes: Lothar Matthaus, Toto Schillaci, Paul Gascoigne and Roger Milla among them. But it fell to Andy Brehme to write his name into the record books with the penalty goal in – again, appropriately – the lowest-score Final of all.

Those who live by the penalty shall die by the penalty, it seems. Argentina had scraped their way to the Final with immense guts, agreed, but a lot of luck. They were temperamentally undisciplined; that's why they missed four players at the Final and that's why they had two more sent off. And, ultimately, that's why they lost their world crown.

The Final does not always produce the right winner. This one did. The massively pro-German crowd roared their approval of a Wagnerian presentation ceremony with dimmed lights, fireworks and scantily-clad Rhine maidens waving the German flag.

The crowd had earlier also roared their approval with horrible malice as the giant screen inside the Olympic stadium picked up Maradona's tearful baby face.

Even in the midst of someone else's stage triumph, Maradona somehow managed to emerge as a major actor, though this time in pathos.

Has there ever been a great player who inspired such vast hostility ? Not Matthews, Di Stefano, Puskas, Eusebio, Pele, Cruyff or Beckenbauer himself. Away from home they were generally appreciated and admired.

But once again here by far the largest shout during pre-match rituals was one of derision when Maradona was named in the team line-ups. The Argentine players were genuinely surprised and upset at being the butt of crowd unpopularity whenever they played. Without Maradona – who said this was his last international, if you want to believe that – they may find reaction softens.

This was a Final which aroused all the elements of great drama – not to be confused with great football.

Maradona and West German skipper Matthaus had faced each other man-for-man in this same Final four years earlier. Then Matthaus had been the marker. Now that role had passed on down the line; the question now was not so much who would mark Maradona as who would mark Matthaus.

In the event Argentina just marked zones in midfield.

No Final had ever been repeated before and the Argentines took the circumstances, cautiously, as a good omen remembering 1986. Boris Becker's defeat in the Wimbledon tennis final that afternoon was another persuasion resource for coach Carlos Bilardo.

If anything Beckenbauer had an embarrassment of riches from which to choose in midfield. He opted to use Littbarski and Hassler to attack the Argentines on the flanks and left out Olaf Thon and Uwe Bein.

Bilardo, of course, had his team virtually selected for him by the suspensions of key midfielders Julio Olarticoechea and Ricardo Giusti, flying forward Claudio Caniggia and the lumbering Daniel Batista.

On the face of it Bilardo was at a disadvantage with new players; yet on

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Bilardo, of course, had his team virtually selected for him by the suspensions of key midfielders Julio Olarticoechea and Ricardo Giusti, flying forward Claudio Caniggia and the lumbering Daniel Batista.

On the face of it Bilardo was at a disadvantage with new players; yet on the plus side, at the end of a long tough competition he was the one with the fresher players.

Trouble was, in terms of ability, they were just not World Cup Final class.

One trophy not at stake was the Fair Play award. That had already gone England's way and there was never any prospect of the Final achieving anything bar pushing West Germany and Argentina down the list rather than up it.

The fear of the yellow peril had gone; there were no more matches for which one had to remain on best behaviour. This was the match at the end of the world. Indeed, the first-ever Final expulsions were entirely predictable.

The first half was a passionless affair as if both sets of players were a little intimidated by the occasion.

Argentina marked man-for-man at the back with Serrizuela on Voller and Ruggeri on Klinsmann. But the play was too one-sided to be even a satisfactory contest.

The question was just, when would West Germany score? Or, more intriguing as time went on, was it Argentina's intention to kill the match and take us, yet again, to penalties?

The Germans had plenty of first-half chances. Four fell to Voller. Once he sliced over the top, once he headed too high, once he delayed his shot and another header flew off target as well.

If Argentina were not always happy in dealing with angled centres across the face of their goal, they had Brehme summed up more successfully.

Whenever the Germans won a free kick near goal the Argentines were quickly out to block the German leftback's drives. Not one bothered Goycochea and Littbarski's one effort flew over the bar.

By way of reply Argentina managed the pitiful contribution of one first half goal attempt and that was a chipped Maradona free kick which flew high over the bar. If anything, German keeper was more worried about one of Brehme's back passes a few minutes later which bounced awkwardly.

Eagerness

Maradona was moving more actively than in any previous match in odd contrast to the German strikers, Voller and Klinsmann, who were not seeking space with anything like the eagerness of early games. That was the penalty, of course, of fatigue.

But it also appeared that Voller was still feeling the right knee nerve injury which had led to his early departure in the semi-final against England.

West Germany maintained their total domination in the second half. But the half-time had served to remind both teams that this match for real. Suddenly the tackling and physical harassment became tougher and sharper.

Littbarski, Berthold, Voller and Brehme all went close and Klaus Augenthaler might well have been awarded a penalty when he was tripped by Goycochea in an incident which almost ended in an Argentine own goal.

As time drifted on so the Germans began to lose their attacking cohesion. The expulsion of Monzon for an awful foul on Klinsmann was justified. But that was no gift for the Germans. We had seen throughout these finals how teams appeared sometimes to play better with ten men (or nine, in Cameroon's case) than with 11.

Just as that first expulsion had been, sadly, on the cards, so it was not surprising that the match was decided by a dubious penalty. Replays appeared to show Sensini playing the ball rather than the man but Voller fell and the referee pointed to the spot.

Brehme's kick only narrowly defeated the intuition of Goycochea. And then, the Germans decision to play out time led directly to the expulsion of Dezotti, who had already been booked.

As time ran out for Maradona and Bilardo and Argentina so Beckenbauer permitted himself a grin of delight.

Deutschland uber Alles, worthy world champions.

Let's be fair

ALL OVER for four more years. No-one can pretend that the 1990 World Cup produced a feast of classic football.

Much of it was mediocre and the scoring level slipped again.

But no two World Cups are alike – even if the same two teams may now turn up in the Final.

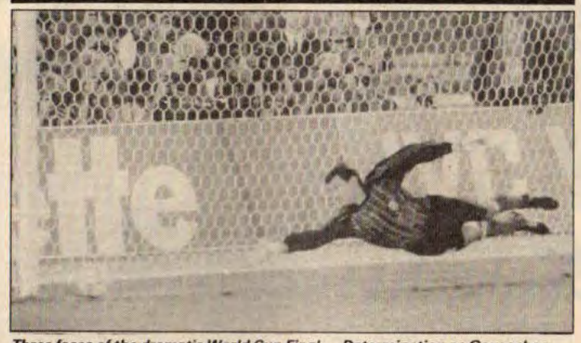
Italia '90 will be remembered for its drama with penalties resolving both semi-finals; for Argentina's remarkable progress despite themselves; for the emergence on the world stage of 'Toto' Schillaci; for the African confirmation provided by Cameroon's progress to the quarter-finals; for England's best-ever 'away' finish in the teeth of so much criticism.

Italia '90 may be remembered for one match above all, West Germany v Holland in Milan and a legendary display by Jurgen Klinsmann.

I hope Italia '90 will also be remembered as the event which destroyed the appalling nonsense of using referees as linesman.

That, Gentlemen of FIFA, really would be a truly worthwhile gesture towards Fair Play.

KEIR RADNEDGE



Three faces of the dramatic World Cup Final ... Determination as Goycochea makes a valiant attempt to stop Brehme's penalty ... Joy as the West German match-winner celebrates ... Despair as Maradona realises his dream has ended in nightmare of disgrace.

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Andreas Brehme wins the World Cup for West Germany.

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Lother Matthaus' progress is terminated.

Rudi Voller can't avoid the attention of Argentina's Jose Serrizuela.

ITALIA'90

WORLD SOCCER's photographers capture all the action from the 14th World Cup Final.

Referee Codesal in the action again as Klinsmann lies prostrate.

Left: Germany celebrate Andy Brehme's World Cup clincher. Maradona (above) is booked by Referee Codesal.

THE FINAL

July 8 – Rome
West Germany 1 (Brehme 84pen)
Argentina 0
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 73,603. **Receipts**: £4,289,163.
Ref: Codesal Mendez (Mex). **Linesmen**: Listkiewicz (Pol), Perez Hoyos (Col).

W Germany: Illgner – Berthold (Reuter 73), Kohler, Augenthaler, Buchwald, Brehme – Hassler, Matthaus, Littbarski – Voller, Klinsmann. Substitutes not used: Aumann, Riedle, Bein, Thon. Manager: Franz Beckenbauer.

Argentina: Goycochea – Ruggeri (Monzon 46), Simon, Serrizuela – Sensini, Basualdo, Burruchaga (Calderon 53), Troglio, Lorenzo – Maradona, Dezotti. Substitutes not used: Cancelarich, Balbo, Bauza. Manager: Carlos Bilardo.

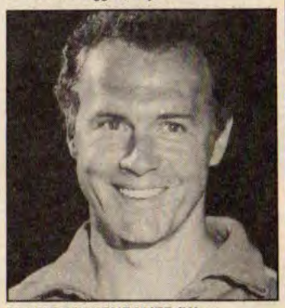
Sent off: Monzon, 64min; Dezotti, 86min.
All-time World Cup winners: 3, Brazil, Italy, West Germany; 2, Argentina, Uruguay; 1, England.

0 – Argentina kick off.
2 – Serrizuela fouls Voller out on the German left. Brehme's free kick across the face of goal finds Voller just too late and he slices his shot over the top.
5 – First signs of Argentine excitement as Littbarski is pulled down just outside the penalty box. Dezotti is booked for dissent. Brehme's drive from the free kick is blocked as is Augenthaler's follow-up shot.
7 – Voller heads a Klinsmann cross wide.
11 – The best move so far, involving Brehme, Voller, Hassler and Littbarski ends with Littbarski shooting just too high.
18 – The Germans catch Argentina on the break. But Voller delays his shot too long.
22 – Matthaus crosses from the right, Voller dives forward but his header flies off target.
28 – Matthaus hits a rare bad pass into touch. Beckenbauer, standing at the bench, indicates to his players to be patient and keep cool.
36 – West Germany win a rare corner but it comes to nothing as a Brehme shot is blocked.
37 – Buchwald fouls Basualdo just outside the German penalty box but Maradona chips the kick safely over the bar. That counts as Argentina's first goal attempt.
Half-time: West Germany 0, Argentina 0. [Argentina replace Ruggeri, who has been struggling with injury throughout the finals, with Monzon. A huge blow.
46 – West Germany kick off the second half, Littbarski takes a pass from Hassler, jinks inside and shoots narrowly wide of Goycochea's left-hand post.
48 – Troglio commits a crude body-check on Matthaus, Brehme's free kick curls across goal and Berthold dives in at the far post to head too high.
50 – Almost identical incident: Brehme's free kick curling to the far post and Voller leaping forward but the ball ricochets off his foot high over the bar.
52 – Voller is booked for a stamp-tackle on Maradona as the tackling suddenly gets tougher.
53 – Surprisingly Argentina bring on Calderon as substitute for Burruchaga, who walks straight down to the far end of the bench, ignoring Bilardo's apparent attempts at explanation.
55 – Beckenbauer gets his own substitutes to warm up.
57 – Augenthaler sneaks through on the left, pushes the ball beyond Goycochea and is tripped by the goalkeeper. Argentina only just scramble what would have been an own goal off the line. Referee Codesal Mendez waves play on.
60 – West Germany work a beautiful free kick with a chip square and a volley from Brehme which has Goycochea scrambling to push the ball round the left-hand post.
61 – Berthold up to Hassler and Klinsmann twists and shoots high over ... Goycochea receives treatment for a blow beneath his right eye.
63 – Treatment now for Buchwald after he bends his face into a high kick from Maradona.
64 – Monzon becomes the first player in World Cup Final history to be sent off after a awful foul on Klinsmann as the West German striker flies in at top speed from the right. The Argentines take the decision 'comparatively' peacefully.
73 – West Germany substitute Reuter for Berthold.
84 – West Germany are awarded a penalty as Voller is sent into the box by Matthaus and falls under a challenge from Sensini. Troglio is shown the yellow card as Argentina indulge in mass dissent over a marginal decision. Brilliant Goycochea flies to his right, correctly, but Brehme's kick is tucked just inside the post. 1-0 to West Germany.
86 – Dezotti is sent off for wringing Kohler by the throat as he races to retrieve the ball. Maradona is shown the yellow card for dissent.
89 – Klinsmann shoots far too high as West Germany indulge in a one-off attack in the middle of their time-wasting posession game.
93 – After three minutes time added on for injuries, expulsions and time-wasting West Germany are 1-0 winners and World Cup holders, world champions for the third time.

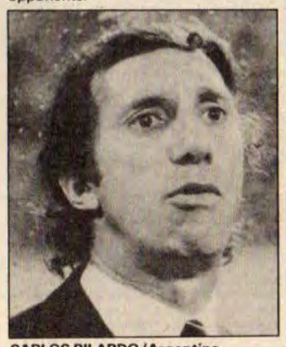
1990 WORLD CUP GOALSCORERS

6 – SCHILLACI (Italy).
5 – Skuhravy (Cz).
4 – Milla (Cam), Matthaus (WG), Michel (Sp), Lineker (Eng).
3 – Brehme, Klinsmann, Voller (WG), Platt (Eng).
2 – Caniggia (Arg), Careca (Brz), Bilek (Cz), Redin (Col), Baggio (It), Jozic, Pancev, Stojkovic (Yug), Balint, Lacatus (Rum), Muller (Brz).
1 – Burruchaga, Troglio (Arg), Ogris, Rodax (Aus), Ceulemans, Clijsters, Degryse, De Wolf, Scifo, Vervoort (Bel) , Ekeke, Kunde, Omam Biyik (Cam), Hasek, Luhovy, Kubik (Cz), Rincon, Valderrama (Col), Hwang Bo-kwan (SK), Cayasso, Flores, Gonzalez, Medford (CR), Abdelghani (Eg), Quinn, Sheedy (RI), Thanijuma, K I Mubarak (UAE), Bein, Littbarski (WG), Wright (Eng), Giannini, Serena (It), Prosinecki, Susic (Yug), Gullit, Ronald Koeman, Kieft (Hol), Johnston, McCall (Sc), Gorriz, Salinas (Sp), Brolin, Ekstrom, Stromberg (Swe), Bengoechea, Fonseca (Uru), Dobrovolski, Protasov, Zavarov, Zigmantovich (SU), Caligiuri, Murray (US).

GOLDEN BALL AWARD
Adidas-sponsored award for the tournament's best player with votes from journalists at the finals.
1 – Salvatore SCHILLACI (Italy)
2 – Lothar Matthaus (W Germany)
3 – Diego Maradona (Argentina)
4 – Roger Milla (Cameroon)
5 – Jurgen Klinsmann (W Germany)
6 – Roberto Baggio (Italy)



FRANZ BECKENBAUER (West German manager)
"No team deserved to win a cup or championship more than this team. Our team discipline was excellent right throughout the match and we dominated our opponents from beginning to end. It's too bad that Argentina did not really participate in a contest and tried to destroy the game. That was too bad for football. Still, it's not up to us to choose our opponents."



CARLOS BILARDO (Argentina manager)
"Of course, we are very disappointed. But we also have to be realistic. Going into a match such as this, against a team such as West Germany, with four players suspended and others not really fit was too big a burden for us. I don't want to talk about the refereeing now, there is no point. Those who choose referees have a difficult job and have to do what they think is best in all circumstances."

Schillaci – on target for the sixth time against England.

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF

Schillaci crown is Italy's consolation

July 7 – Bari
Italy 2 (Baggio 71, Schillaci 84pen)
England 1 (Platt 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 50,000. **Ref**: Quiniou (Fr)

Italy: Zenga – Bergomi, Ferrara, Baresi, Vierchowod – De Agostini (Berti 67), Ancelotti, Giannini (Ferri 89), Maldini – Baggio, Schillaci.

England: Shilton – Stevens, Walker, Wright (Webb 72), Parker, Dorigo – McMahon (Waddle 72), Platt, Steven – Beardsley, Lineker.

ITALY narrowly deserved to win the 'Finalina' but defeat would have taken nothing away from their talent, just as England's defeat did nothing to discredit Bobby Robson's men in their manager's last match in charge.

The other winner on Bari's World Cup farewell was Salvatore 'Toto' Schillaci whose penalty winner lifted him into the history books as the finals' six-goal top scorer.

The end of a hard, competitive, entertaining match saw remarkable scenes as both teams joined in 'The Wave' and then ran the lap of honour together. Those scenes, televised round the world, would have done the image of neither Italian nor English football any harm.

But the inept 'performances' of French referee Joel Quiniou and Algerian linesman Mohammed Hansal should make FIFA's entire referees' committee seriously consider an en bloc resignation.

Italian coach Azeglio Vicini had picked a team specifically for this match and for England.

Pietro Vierchowod, quickest of Italian defenders, was called in to mark Gary Lineker; Ciro Ferrara earned a first call-up to block any midfield rushes; Baggio was back alongside Schillaci to test England's defensive pace.

In the event Des Walker – no doubt much to the admiration of watching Real Madrid president Ramon Mendoza – made sure Schillaci had his quietest match of the finals. Schillaci nonetheless missed probably his easiest chance of the finals after 17 minutes when Peter Shilton tipped a Ferrara drive against a post. Schillaci was there to pounce, but somehow the ball bounced the wrong way off his knees.

Italy provided most of the goal action once Gary Stevens had fired wide in the second minute. Baggio, looking superb, was involved in most of the danger, forcing three fine saves from Shilton.

Vierchowod saved Italy more by luck than judgment just before half-time when a close-range Lineker header bounced off the back of his neck and a drive by the Spurs striker sent Zenga diving to save on the other side of the break.

The deadlock was eventually broken thanks to a mistake by Shilton, the quick-thinking of Baggio and some totally inept work by both referee Quiniou and Algerian linesman Hansal.

Shilton dropped a ball at his feet, preparing to clear and Baggio nipped it away. Shilton flung his arm out, bringing Baggio down but inexplicably the referee failed to award a penalty. Baggio pushed the ball to Schillaci but when Schillaci returned the pass Baggio was clearly a yard offside – yet the linesman failed to flag and Baggio sidestepped a couple of defenders before shooting home.

A smiling David Platt after his goal against Italy.

To say both referee and linesman were inept is putting it mildly – yet that was not the first piece of nonsense.

The ninth minute had seen an odd incident when Baggio handled the ball as he chased a pass into the penalty box and Wright handled the ball before clearing. Referee Quiniou, apparently, was blind to both. And there was more where that came from.

In the 80th minute David Platt, with Zenga's mind somewhere else, headed a fine equaliser which gave England brief hope. But six minutes from the end Walker met Schillaci with a tired tackle on the edge of the box and 'Toto-goal' converted the penalty for both personal and national glory.

Italy should have scored another. In the last minute substitute Nicola Berti beautifully headed home a cross from the right – only to be scandalously denied by linesman Hansal's offside flag. When the ball was played there were no fewer than five England players between Berti and the goal.

How very fortunate for Hansal and the police that it did not affect a result which brought Italy back out onto the streets.

ITALIA'90

HITS & MISSES

THE 1990 World Cup finals were going to be all about super teams and superstars. And superstars there were in abundance.

The trouble was, many of them did not live up to their reputations. Other, lesser mortals according to preview speculation, rose to the occasion in style.

So, to consider a selection of the individual successes means first wiping away some of the confusion and the incompetence.

Three obvious failures spring to mind. All strikers with immense reputations and great success at their back: Marco Van Basten, Emilio Butragueno and Ruben Sosa.

Van Basten was a strange case. One wonders if he was ever mentally prepared for the World Cup. Some time ago he is said to have told friends: "I did well at the European championship, I have won everything with Milan, I have been European Footballer of the Year two years running: Do I really need to play at the World Cup?"

Not once, against Egypt, England, the Irish Republic of West Germany, did Van Basten ever look the graceful yet deadly attacker who has achieved so much under Arrigo Sacchi at Milan.

Similarly, Butragueno, great favourite of Real Madrid. Four years ago in Mexico he hit four goals in one game against Denmark. This time he was virtually anonymous. True, he was unlucky in the second round thriller against Yugoslavia when one shot struck a post. But with strikers, luck is in or out; there are no half-measures.

Madrid fans may wonder, with reason, why Butragueno was used as the main striker, rather than permitted to wander across the width of the attack as he does with Madrid. But Butragueno, to his credit, did not seek to use that as an excuse. He said simple: "I let myself down and I let my team-mates down. Why was I substituted against Yugoslavia? I should think the answer's obvious."

Drained

As for Sosa, you could almost visibly see the cocksure self-confidence draining from him after he missed his first-match penalty for Uruguay against Spain.

After Uruguay's second-round defeat by Italy – in which Sosa was reduced to second-half substitute – he slunk out of the team's hotel at midnight. Team officials suggested he was angry with manager Tabarez; it might be nearer the truth to say he was embarrassed.

Then, what about Diego Maradona and Ruud Gullit, the two great heroes of the world game? Can one truly judge them?

Maradona entered the finals looking fitter than he has for almost three years. Yet he was suffering toe-nail trouble and, performing as a lone striker, was soon being trodden on to such an extent that one ankle virtually swelled to double its size.

Maradona played against Brazil in intense pain. Yet he still managed to deliver the decisive pass for Caniggia's winning goal. No all-star team manager could ignore him.

As for Gullit, he paid the penalty of more than a year out of the game. With each succeeding display you could see him taking further steps down the road to complete rehabilitation. Against the Irish his shooting talent started to come back; against the West Germans his long-striding will for total involvement was back in evidence.

Yugoslavia's Dragan Stojkovic ... great goal against Spain.

All a little too late for Holland, but Milan coach Sacchi must have been delighted by the prospect of a full-strength, fully-confident, undiminished Gullit back in the red-and-black stripes this coming season.

The other big-news injury victim was Gianluca Vialli. He has been struggling for most of this year and Italy manager Azeglio Vicini may just have been enormously relieved when a muscle strain and then illness put Vialli on the sidelines. That gave Vicini both the excuse to leave out a man whose achievements for his country have not latterly matched and potential, but also permitted him the opportunity to give Roberto Baggio his head ... with results we all know.

World Cups may be tough on forwards' reputations, but they are usually graveyards for goalkeepers.

Top 'keeper

The all-round best keeper I saw in action was Spain's Andoni Zubizarreta. Italy's Walter Zenga also looked at his sharpest. He had far less work to do than Zubizarreta – Italy, as ever, were tight at the back – though in some ways that made his task more awkward.

A pity Peter Shilton's record-breaking World Cup ended with him being caught out by Baggio. Shilton had done more than perhaps anyone else to bring England through to that Third Place match.

A mention, too, for the most spectacular goalkeeper in the finals – Costa Rica's Luis Conejo. He was brilliance personified as he leaped around denying just about everybody.

Italy's defenders were, as expected, among the best on duty. Giuseppe Bergomi, Franco Baresi, Riccardo Ferri and Paolo Maldini always looked in control, their covering, tackling and understanding was superb.

Nelson Gutierrez, at stopper, was one of the Uruguayans' few successes while Des Walker's pace turned him into of those players considered 'World Cup discoveries.'

As far as leftbacks were concerned (if that position still exists in the modern game) then West Germany's Andy Brehme was in a class of his own. It said everything about his wonderful touch and eye for space that, midway through the match against Holland, he asked John Van't Schip: "Why are you following me everywhere? Why don't you play your own game?" Van't Schip replied: "I'm just following orders."

West Germany provided one of the finals' outstanding midfield forces in skipper Lothar Matthaus. Before the finals, he and Internazionale had been at loggerheads over an extension to his contract. Matthaus wanted another three years; Inter, because he was nearly 30, wanted to offer him only a one-year deal.

Candidate

That changed fast once the finals began and Matthaus looked like being a candidate for the Golden Ball. Now he has his three-year contract.

Thomas Hassler, despite his injury, and Pierre Littbarski, were not far behind Matthaus in form, alacrity and confidence. But Italy, in Giuseppe Giannini, possessed the most skilled and creative general on view as well as one one of the most visionary of assistants in Roberto Donadoni.

That was some compensation for the ill luck with injuries which once again struck Carlo Ancelotti. His team-mates have enormous admiration for him. Gianluca Vialli said: "He is like our trainer on the pitch because he sees situations so quickly and works out the answers. When he has retired he will make a very good and successful coach."

The Soviet Union's triumvirate of Zavarov, Aleinikov and Litovchenko were disappointing. But Frantisek Chovanec and Lubos Kubik were a dream to watch when the Czechoslovaks played well. Neither is the fastest over 10 yards but intelligence and commonsense more than made amends and Chovanec's ability to drop a dead-ball on a sixpence proved fatal to more than one opponent.

Argentina owed an immense debt to Jorge Burruchaga while Alemao was among Brazil's most consistent players but Dunga looked uninspired, though worthy. It may not have helped his World Cup that he was involved in a day-by-day transfer wrangling with his club, Fiorentina, and Juventus.

Belgium's Enzo Scifo, Colombia's Carlos Valderrama and Yugoslavia's Dragan Stojkovic remained among that peripheral group of talented but tantalising individuals who constantly promised more than they delivered.

But that was not a criticism which could be levelled at Irishman Paul McGrath. He was superb; it was a shame that the intensity of the Irish team effort meant that his contribution was not always given full credit when there were 'bigger' names around.

Forwards were a real area of confusion. Some teams still used forwards to strike for goal. Some used a winger, some ignored wingers. Some used forwards not to score goals but to lay the ball off for midfield men coming through to look after the goal-scoring.

Talent

Baggio is a great talent, though his goal against Czechoslovakia was not in the Maradona '86 class. His partner, Toto Schillaci, emerged sensationally. Schillaci is not a great footballer but he is very quick, he is brave and he is direct and fearless. All old-fashioned qualities but found in few of the attackers at Italia '90.

Czechoslovakia's Tomas Skuhravy could have scored more goals than he did had he been more ruthless against both the United States and Costa Rica.

Sweden's baby-faced Tomas Brolin looked a major discovery and Argentina's Claudio Caniggia proved he was more than a mere jet engine with the superb way he took his decisive goal against Brazil.

Careca played as well as he could in such a tactically limiting Brazilian system but Oleg Protasov (Soviet Union) and Toni Polster (Austria) must go down among the finals' prime flops.

Somewhere between midfield and attack England's Paul Gascoigne was the revelation ... a sort of English Toto Schillaci whose goalscoring exploits gave Italy so much to cheer they really did believe the Cup would be theirs.

The best attacking partnership was West Germany's Rudi Voller and Jurgen Klinsmann. Their hard work off the ball, the miles they ran in each game, the way they pulled defences around – all this was exemplary modern football. Klinsmann gave, against Holland, the finest individual display of these finals and sent his own reputation soaring.

Up there with him, in the star stratosphere, was a most unlikely character, of course, in Roger Milla. At 38 the Cameroon striker became the oldest man ever to score goals in the World Cup finals.

Taking Milla as an example, Van Basten, Butragueno, Sosa and Vialli still have plenty of time in which to pick up the pieces.

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4, Jürgen KOHLER. Stopper. Aged 24 (born October 6, 1965). Bayern Munich. One of the very best stoppers in Europe – so good that Bayern paid £1million to sign him two years ago from Köln. He was voted players' Player of the Year in 1988. His hero as a teenager was Karlheinz Förster, whose place he has now taken in the national team. Joined Waldhof Mannheim (then in the second division), from Jahn Lambsheim as a 16-year-old and was instrumental in Mannheim's promotion to the Bundesliga. In 1986 he was sold to Köln for the previous German domestic record for a defender, £740,000.

6, Guido BUCHWALD. Stopper/ Fullback. Aged 29 (born January 24, 1961). Stuttgart. Big, reliable defender who began his career with junior clubs SV Wannweil and TSV Pliezhausen. Moved on to Stuttgarter Kickers and then into the Bundesliga with Stuttgart in 1983. Made his national team debut in the 1-0 win over Italy, in Zurich in May 1984, which marked FIFA's 80th anniversary. Buchwald was, however, seriously injured at the start of the following season and could not regain his place in time for the last World Cup tournament in Mexico. He was the first-choice at the start of the European finals but then lost his place to his better rival, Borowka of Werder Bremen, after being injured during the opening 1-1 draw against Italy in Dusseldorf. Buchwald's defensive strength was a key factor in Stuttgart's run to last year's UEFA Cup final. But he missed the second, home, leg against Napoli because of suspension.

2, Stefan REUTER. Defensive midfield. Aged 24 (born October 16, 1966). Bayern Munich. Also an Olympic and under-21 international. New signing two years ago from Nürnberg, in joint £1.4million deal with Roland Grahammer. Joined 'Club' in 1982 from the amateur club, TSV Dunkelsbühl. Admired more for his stamina and effort rather than for his skill and technique. Made his international debut in a goalless draw against Italy in Köln in April, 1987, but just missed out on a place in the European championship squad. Has agreed a transfer option with Juventus, though whether they take it up is another matter.

Diego Maradona holds off a challenge from Germany's Jurgen Klinsmann.

3, Andreas BREHME. Defensive or right-side midfield. Aged 29 (born November 9, 1960). Internazionale (It). Joined Inter from Bayern Munich after the 1988 European finals and was a key figure in Inter's 1989 Italian league title success. In the last World Cup Brehme's midfield energy was important in the West Germans' progress to the Final ... as well as the vital first goal he scored in the semi-final against France. Felix Magath touched a free kick square and Brehme's shot squirmed through goalkeeper Joel Bats's fingers into the net. Brehme was first capped against Belgium in February, 1984, and then scored the winning goal against the Soviet Union two matches later. Joined Bayern from Kaiserslautern after making his name with Saarbrucken. Also an Olympic and under-21 international.

8, Thomas HÄSSLER. Midfield. Aged 24 (born May 30, 1966). Köln – but now joints Juventus fro £5.5million. Hässler is, at 5ft 6, one of the smallest players in top-class football. Hässler made his West Germany debut in the 4-0 World Cup win over Finland in Helsinki with which the Germans began their qualifying campaign. Since then his reputation and midfield influence has grown by leaps and bounds. He guided Köln to the recent UEFA Cup semi-finals. After their defeat then by Juventus it was confirmed that Hässler will be joining the Italians. His first 'reward' was to receive several telephone death threats from fans who considered him a traitor.

7, Pierre LITTBARSKI. Midfield/winger. Aged 30 (born April 16, 1960). Köln. Shot to prominence by hitting two goals on his debut in a World Cup qualifier against Austria in 1981. A skilful dribbler but erratic in form and never able to hold a national team place for long. Joined Köln in 1978 from Hertha Zehlendorf. Played in the 1982 and 1986 World Cup Finals but came close to missing his chances of a trip to Mexico when he suffered an ankle injury in one of the last games of the league season. Recovered in time to play against Real Madrid in the UEFA Cup final (which Köln lost 5-3 on agg) and then to sign for France's newly-promoted Racing Club of Paris after the World Cup. He could not settle in France and returned to Köln in the autumn of 1987, shortly before turning England's defence inside out in a memorable Düsseldorf friendly. Littbarski scored twice – his second goal deceiving Shilton direct from a left-wing corner. He was one of the best of the Germans at the European finals – until a strange charade when he was left out of the semi-final starting line-up against Holland because of an 'invented' injury as a tactical surprise.

10, Lothar MATTHÄUS. Aged 29 (born March 21, 1961). National team captain. Joined Internazionale from Bayern Munich after the 1988 European finals for £2.4million. Matthäus established his reputation at the 1986 World Cup finals where he struck the second-round winner with a tremendous free kick against Morocco ... and who was then appointed (despite a broken wrist) to try to put the shackles on Maradona in the Final. Matthäus joined Bayern from Borussia Mönchengladbach for a West German domestic record of £650,000 immediately after Bayern had beaten Borussia on penalties in the 1984 domestic cup final. Matthäus's first three internationals were spread over two years from 1980 and all were as substitute. Played in two first-phase matches in the 1982 World Cup finals and in all three of West Germany's games in the 1984 European championship finals.

18, Jurgen KLINSMANN. Striker. Aged 25 (born July 30, 1964). Internazionale (It). Moved to Italy last summer after his goals took Stuttgart to the 1989 UEFA Cup Final. He was West Germany's major success of the 1988 European championship finals with displays which then earned him the accolade as Footballer of the Year. Klinsmann attributes his sudden improvement to the work he had undertaken with his brother, a promising sprinter, to improve his initial acceleration. Klinsmann made his national team debut in the 1-1 draw away to Brazil in December, 1987, and was the championship's top scorer in 1988 with 19 goals (the lowest-ever 'top' goals total in the Bundesligh). Joined Stuttgart in 1984, like several of his club and international team-mates, from neighbouring Stuttgart Kickers.

9, Rudi VÖLLER. Centre forward. Aged 30 (born April 13, 1960). Roma (It). Moved to Italy from Werder Bremen four years ago and has been a controversial exile in Rome because of a series of injuries. When Völler flew back to West Germany for treatment without the club's permission in the spring of 1988 he was fined £2,000. But then, the West Germans all knew Völler was notoriously injury-prone – he missed much of the 1985-86 West German league campaign, while still with Werder Bremen, with thigh trouble. Völler returned right at the end of that season – just in time to see long-time league leaders Werder pipped to the title on the last day by Bayern Munich. Ironically it was in Munich that Völler began his rise to fame and Italian fortune. He played for TSV 1860 Munich and left them for Werder Bremen only in 1982. In his first season in Bremen he was league top scorer with 23 goals, Footballer of the Year and, for good measure, won his first cap as substitute for Matthäus against Northern Ireland. Disappointed, however, in the finals of the 1984 European championship and the 1986 World Cup – Völler returned to form in the 1988 European finals, scoring both goals in the 2-0 first round defeat of Spain in Munich.

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5, Klaus AUGENTHALER. Sweeper. Aged 32 (born September 26, 1957). Bayern Munich. A member of the West German World Cup squad in Mexico but was dropped after the first two games – the 1-1 draw against Uruguay and the 2-1 win over Scotland. Dependable utility player able to fit in anywhere at the back or in midfield. Has spent 14 years now with Bayern, who have been his only senior club. Made his international debut against Austria six seasons ago. Missed the 1987 Champions' Cup final after being sent off in the semi-final return against Real in Madrid – his mistake was to tangle with the provocative Mexican, Hugo Sanchez. Likes to take the occasional crack at goal and scored one memorable long-range effort in a UEFA Cup-tie against the Scottish club, Hearts. Beckenbauer has long insisted that he wanted Augenthaler as his sweeper for the World Cup – but a series of injuries continually thwarted his return to national team duty. In the run-up to the World Cup finals he was publicly critical of some of Beckenbauer's team selections, particularly the midfield which he considered overbalanced towards attack.

14, Thomas BERTHOLD. Utility defender. Aged 25 (born November 12, 1964). Roma (Italy). Began with Eintracht Frankfurt, moved to Italy with Verona after the 1986 World Cup and transferred to Roma last summer. Berthold made his international debut in a 1-0 home defeat by Hungary in Hamburg at the start of 1985. Was originally a rightback but has played mainly midfield in Italy while he is considered the only serious rival to Augenthaler as sweeper for the national team. Berthold was one of only three of the 1986 World Cup Final starters who went on to the 1988 European finals (the others were Brehme and Matthäus). Berthold was doubly disappointed by the last World Cup: apart from finishing a runner-up to Argentina, he was also sent off in the dramatic quarter-final victory over hosts Mexico. Played for the Rest of the World in the Football League centenary match at Wembley three years ago.

4, Jürgen KOHLER. Stopper. Aged 24 (born October 6, 1965). Bayern Munich. One of the very best stoppers in Europe – so good that Bayern paid £1million to sign him two years ago from Köln. He was voted players' Player of the Year in 1988. His hero as a teenager was Karlheinz Förster, whose place he has now taken in the national team. Joined Waldhof Mannheim (then in the second division), from Jahn Lambsheim as a 16-year-old and was instrumental in Mannheim's promotion to the Bundesliga. In 1986 he was sold to Köln for the previous German domestic record for a defender, £740,000.

6, Guido BUCHWALD. Stopper/ Fullback. Aged 29 (born January 24, 1961). Stuttgart. Big, reliable defender who began his career with junior clubs SV Wannweil and TSV Pliezhausen. Moved on to Stuttgarter Kickers and then into the Bundesliga with Stuttgart in 1983. Made his national team debut in the 1-0 win over Italy, in Zurich in May 1984, which marked FIFA's 80th anniversary. Buchwald was, however, seriously injured at the start of the following season and could not regain his place in time for the last World Cup tournament in Mexico. He was the first-choice at the start of the European finals but then lost his place to his better rival, Borowka of Werder Bremen, after being injured during the opening 1-1 draw against Italy in Dusseldorf. Buchwald's defensive strength was a key factor in Stuttgart's run to last year's UEFA Cup final. But he missed the second, home, leg against Napoli because of suspension.

2, Stefan REUTER. Defensive midfield. Aged 24 (born October 16, 1966). Bayern Munich. Also an Olympic and under-21 international. New signing two years ago from Nürnberg, in joint £1.4million deal with Roland Grahammer. Joined 'Club' in 1982 from the amateur club, TSV Dunkelsbühl. Admired more for his stamina and effort rather than for his skill and technique. Made his international debut in a goalless draw against Italy in Köln in April, 1987, but just missed out on a place in the European championship squad. Has agreed a transfer option with Juventus, though whether they take it up is another matter.

Diego Maradona holds off a challenge from Germany's Jurgen Klinsmann.

3, Andreas BREHME. Defensive or right-side midfield. Aged 29 (born November 9, 1960). Internazionale (It). Joined Inter from Bayern Munich after the 1988 European finals and was a key figure in Inter's 1989 Italian league title success. In the last World Cup Brehme's midfield energy was important in the West Germans' progress to the Final ... as well as the vital first goal he scored in the semi-final against France. Felix Magath touched a free kick square and Brehme's shot squirmed through goalkeeper Joel Bats's fingers into the net. Brehme was first capped against Belgium in February, 1984, and then scored the winning goal against the Soviet Union two matches later. Joined Bayern from Kaiserslautern after making his name with Saarbrucken. Also an Olympic and under-21 international.

8, Thomas HÄSSLER. Midfield. Aged 24 (born May 30, 1966). Köln – but now joints Juventus fro £5.5million. Hässler is, at 5ft 6, one of the smallest players in top-class football. Hässler made his West Germany debut in the 4-0 World Cup win over Finland in Helsinki with which the Germans began their qualifying campaign. Since then his reputation and midfield influence has grown by leaps and bounds. He guided Köln to the recent UEFA Cup semi-finals. After their defeat then by Juventus it was confirmed that Hässler will be joining the Italians. His first 'reward' was to receive several telephone death threats from fans who considered him a traitor.

7, Pierre LITTBARSKI. Midfield/winger. Aged 30 (born April 16, 1960). Köln. Shot to prominence by hitting two goals on his debut in a World Cup qualifier against Austria in 1981. A skilful dribbler but erratic in form and never able to hold a national team place for long. Joined Köln in 1978 from Hertha Zehlendorf. Played in the 1982 and 1986 World Cup Finals but came close to missing his chances of a trip to Mexico when he suffered an ankle injury in one of the last games of the league season. Recovered in time to play against Real Madrid in the UEFA Cup final (which Köln lost 5-3 on agg) and then to sign for France's newly-promoted Racing Club of Paris after the World Cup. He could not settle in France and returned to Köln in the autumn of 1987, shortly before turning England's defence inside out in a memorable Düsseldorf friendly. Littbarski scored twice – his second goal deceiving Shilton direct from a left-wing corner. He was one of the best of the Germans at the European finals – until a strange charade when he was left out of the semi-final starting line-up against Holland because of an 'invented' injury as a tactical surprise.

10, Lothar MATTHÄUS. Aged 29 (born March 21, 1961). National team captain. Joined Internazionale from Bayern Munich after the 1988 European finals for £2.4million. Matthäus established his reputation at the 1986 World Cup finals where he struck the second-round winner with a tremendous free kick against Morocco ... and who was then appointed (despite a broken wrist) to try to put the shackles on Maradona in the Final. Matthäus joined Bayern from Borussia Mönchengladbach for a West German domestic record of £650,000 immediately after Bayern had beaten Borussia on penalties in the 1984 domestic cup final. Matthäus's first three internationals were spread over two years from 1980 and all were as substitute. Played in two first-phase matches in the 1982 World Cup finals and in all three of West Germany's games in the 1984 European championship finals.

18, Jurgen KLINSMANN. Striker. Aged 25 (born July 30, 1964). Internazionale (It). Moved to Italy last summer after his goals took Stuttgart to the 1989 UEFA Cup Final. He was West Germany's major success of the 1988 European championship finals with displays which then earned him the accolade as Footballer of the Year. Klinsmann attributes his sudden improvement to the work he had undertaken with his brother, a promising sprinter, to improve his initial acceleration. Klinsmann made his national team debut in the 1-1 draw away to Brazil in December, 1987, and was the championship's top scorer in 1988 with 19 goals (the lowest-ever 'top' goals total in the Bundeslign). Joined Stuttgart in 1984, like several of his club and international team-mates, from neighbouring Stuttgart Kickers.

9, Rudi VÖLLER. Centre forward. Aged 30 (born April 13, 1960). Roma (It). Moved to Italy from Werder Bremen four years ago and has been a controversial exile in Rome because of a series of injuries. When Völler flew back to West Germany for treatment without the club's permission in the spring of 1988 he was fined £2,000. But then, the West Germans all knew Völler was notoriously injury-prone – he missed much of the 1985-86 West German league campaign, while still with Werder Bremen, with thigh trouble. Völler returned right at the end of that season – just in time to see long-time league leaders Werder pipped to the title on the last day by Bayern Munich. Ironically it was in Munich that Völler began his rise to fame and Italian fortune. He played for TSV 1860 Munich and left them for Werder Bremen only in 1982. In his first season in Bremen he was league top scorer with 23 goals, Footballer of the Year and, for good measure, won his first cap as substitute for Matthäus against Northern Ireland. Disappointed, however, in the finals of the 1984 European championship and the 1986 World Cup – Völler returned to form in the 1988 European finals, scoring both goals in the 2-0 first round defeat of Spain in Munich.

ITALIA'90

HOW THE NATIONS FARED

A review of each country's campaign in Italy by KEIR RADNEDGE

ARGENTINA

NO-ONE who saw Argentine begin so badly, so appallingly, so disappointingly, could quite believe the way they finished the World Cup.

It is no secret that a team should, ideally, pace its campaign – build up from a slow start. But Argentina's start was not merely slow, it was disastrous.

With Maradona defying a battered toe and ankle, with a string of other players carrying injuries which would have ruled them out of league action, they looked nothing like World Cup-holders.

The midfield was unbalanced, the attack was virtually non-existent and both goalkeepers Pumpido and his substitute Goycochea looked like 17-year-old nervous newcomers.

Yet, at the end of it all, Argentina's courage and guts brought them through to Rome. The victory over Brazil was perhaps a first sign that destiny (or, if you prefer, the Hand of God) was again behind Argentina.

Goycochea saved them against Yugoslavia in a shoot-out when even Maradona could not help and then Maradona himself produced the decisive spot-kick in 'his' Naples.

Somehow, Argentina not only survived but clung on long enough to push other teams out of the World Cup lifeboat. But then came the Final – and disgrace after having two men sent off and their manhandling of the referee.

Goycochea looked nervous at times.

AUSTRIA

A BIG disappointment. It was not so much that Austria finished only third in Group A.

To some extent that had been expected. The disappointment was in the fact that their overall results were so poor they were only ever in with the slimmest chance of squeezing into the second round.

Star striker and skipper Toni Polster laid most of the blame at the door of manager Josef Hickersberger. That seemed somewhat unfair since Polster was himself probably the biggest failure among the players – goalkeeper Klaus Lindenberger, one blunder against the Americans excepted, their biggest success.

However, it must be said that Austria appeared to have prepared too intently for their first match, against hosts Italy, and not put enough thought into winning their next, against Czechoslovakia.

The kicking match against the Americans which ensued was little more than a disappointed bunch of players giving vent to their frustration.

BELGIUM

UNLUCKY defeat by England cannot take away anything from the achievement of veteran manager Guy Thys.

He retired last year and watched from the tribune d'honneur as 'his' team dissolved into confused anarchy under managerial successor Walter Meeuws.

Then Thys was recalled. He had a couple of friendlies just before the World Cup. That was all. Yet in Italy Belgium were suddenly back in the groove, playing as if Thys had never left. Clearly there is some magic potion in those little cigars he chews on the touchline bench.

In the end Belgium's downfall was the age of men such as the superb Eric Gerets, sweeper-turned-midfielder Leo Clijsters and forward Jan Ceulemans. In extra time against England their legs had gone.

Until then Gerets and Ceulemans had been superb; Ceulemans, of course, struck the post early on against England. But another plus for Thys in Italy was the re-emergence of Enzo Scifo. A wonderful teenager with Anderlecht, he appeared to have lost his way after transferring too soon to Inter and then shuffling around France. In these finals he was back at his best. No wonder Fiorentina hope to buy him; no wonder the future now looks brighter again for Belgium in the post- Thys/Gerets/Ceulemans era.

BRAZIL

PREDICTABLY, manager Sebastiao Lazaroni went home to the blame.

He had been ferociously criticised by the media and Brazil's old stars for using a five-man defence. But in the end it was not defence or midfield which let him down but his attack. Had Brazil taken any one of the plethora of chances available in the first half against Argentina they must have reached the quarter-finals.

The problem for Brazil was that using eight men in defence and midfield places an awful burden or work on the two strikers. They must find their own space, and Brazilian strikers are not used to that. In the past the tradition has been that the skill of the midfield created those gaps.

Careca and Muller are fine players but they are not in the style of Voller and Klinsmann or even Baggio and Schillaci.

Lazaroni might have wished to ring more changes with his substitutes. But Romario had not played since breaking his leg in March and lacked sharpness, while Bebeto was injured in training and played only a few minutes against Costa Rica. By the time the Argentina game came round, Muller and Careca were flagging.

Scifo was one of the stars in Italy.

CAMEROON

WORLD SOCCER readers will know that Cameroon were not the shock team of the World Cup finals.

The standard of Cameroon football at national team, club and individual level has long been one of the very highest and most consistent in Africa.

African football owes coach Valeri Nepomniachi and his men an immense debt since they, and they alone, have virtually ensured a greater representation for African at future finals tournaments.

As we noted in these columns before the World Cup, Cameroon and their players were anything but the innocents abroad of popular misconception.

They proved against Argentina, most notably, that they could kick with the best, shut down a game with the best and strike decisively on the break with the best. In fact, their best football was played, ironically, in the eventual quarter-final defeat by England.

The politics of Cameroon's World Cup are another story. In the meantime, Roger Milla has earned himself a place in football folklore.

Mighty Milla.

COLOMBIA

COACH Francisco Maturana said, on arrival home, that his players had done well but could have done better.

They did not take Cameroon seriously in the second round. Maturana said: "Strange as it sounds, we might have done better against Italy or England. Our players were too busy thinking about the quarter-finals."

Colombia's campaign ended, as it had always threatened to, with a desperate mistake by goalkeeper Rene Higuita. He was incredible to watch, a most sympathetic character but in the end his team's own worst enemy. Not so much through the risk of playing sweeper; the plain fact is that Higuita needs to work harder on his goalkeeping. At least twice in these finals he was easily beaten on his near post. The second occasion was Roger Milla's first goal for Cameroon. And that was the real killer blow for Colombia.

COSTA RICA

ONE of the best pre-Cup decisions taken by any federation was Costa Rica's decision to appoint Bora Milutinovic as coach.

He has been criticised as an opportunist, which may be true. But he is a shrewd judge of football. He dominated Costa Rica's matches from the touchline and gave his players the sort of self-confidence which all their opponents must envied. Costa Rica had some luck, but they earned it.

Goalkeeper Luis Conejo was outstanding with Flores, Marchena and Jara superbly dedicated in defence, midfield and attack.

The World Cup won't forget Costa Rica in a hurry. For example, they looked far superior to those other CONCACAF representatives from the US.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ENJOYED a much more positive World Cup than many had expected – guided by Chovanec and Kubik in midfield, with Moravcik an astute user of the wingers and Skuhravy voracious against the weak defences of the United States and Costa Rica.

Manager Josef Venglos more than made amends for the disappointing campaign of 1982. It was just a pity that the Czechs, perhaps overwhelmed by the occasion and certainly upset by the refereeing of Helmut Kohl, failed to do themselves justice against West Germany in the quarter-finals.

That defeat broke their sequence of reaching the Final every 28 years – first in 1934, then in 1962 but not, sadly for them, in 1990.

Shoubeir wins our "time wasting" award.

EGYPT

STARTED well, as expected, but finished in confusion and tears.

Egypt played some excellent football against Holland – probably the best football in Group F. The Hassan twins – Ibrahim at right back and Hossam in attack – were reliable stalwarts while the form of some other players, such as Abdelhamid and Abdelghani, fluctuated. Goalkeeper Shoubeir deserved a special award, however – as greatest individual time-waster of the World Cup. It's time FIFA gave referees full rein to crack down on 'characters' like that.

ENGLAND

BOBBY ROBSON went out in glory.

After all the criticism, after all the personal attacks, after eight years of being perhaps the most controversial man in England, he could (if he so wished) thumb his nose at all the critics.

Few people had expected England to reach the semi-finals – particularly, perhaps, after the tense and tight first round matches in Cagliari. Yet the immense professionalism of England footballers, their pride in representing their country, carried them on wings to within an ace of Rome.

In the semi-final against West Germany, goalkeeper Peter Shilton made some world-class saves after being caught off guard by a deflection following a free kick; Paul Gascoigne was England's man of the match; and Gary Lineker, after a slow start, suddenly emerged as a challenger to retain his top scorer's crown.

Forgotten were the injury-inspired disappearances of John Barnes and skipper Bryan Robson.

Off the pitch relations with Fleet Street were appalling. But just maybe, though the players might hate to admit it, that provided just the provocation needed to lift them beyond all expectation to a highly creditable fourth place.

HOLLAND

MAJOR disappointment. Everyone expected more of the European champions.

In the end even their talent could not override the effects of internal dissent and managerial uncertainty. Leo Beenhakker did what he could, but he was limited. He had to accept the so-called 'Team of Eight' and chop and change the other three positions to vary tactics and cope with the vagaries of form.

Even Hans Van Breukelen was not his usual reliable self in goal, while Ronald Koeman was neither dominant in defence nor of any help at the other end with his wayward shooting. As for Frank Rijkaard, his nonsensical 'display' against West Germany was the last nail in the Dutch coffin.

Ruud Gullit tried hard to make up for a year's injury absence. He might have made up for lost time quicker if Marco Van Basten had played any sort of helpful role but Van Basten was a disaster. The poorest form of his career struck just at the wrong time.

Egypt (dark shirts) were excellent against the unhappy Dutch.

Gascoigne was England's man-of-the-match against West Germany.

ITALY

HOSTS Italy really did start the World Cup finals looking like world-beaters.

Their teamwork and understanding was beautiful to watch and the strength in depth of the squad appeared to guarantee progress all the way to the Final, if not to ultimate victory.

Manager Azeglio Vicini had the luxury of being able to choose between world stars such as Vialli and Baggio and still win matches. He produced a terrific rabbit-out-of-a-hat in centre-forward Toto Schillaci; he had outstanding defensive figures such as Baresi, Bergomi, Zenga and Co.

Italy, it seemed, could not fail. Yet fail they did. Moved out of Rome for the first time, they looked ill at ease in the Naples semi-final. Despite taking the lead against Argentina they created few openings and Vicini's selection and substitution decisions will be debated for years.

Italy had won almost all their matches by minimum margins, including the Third Place game against England. In the end, they sailed close to the wind just once too often.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

ACHIEVED Irish football history by reaching the quarter-finals on their first ever appearance at the pinnacle of the game.

Jack Charlton's men gave every last drop of sweat in chasing even Italy around Rome's Olympic stadium. But, to be dispassionate about it, they were one of the least attractive sides to watch, scoring only twice in their five games.

Paul McGrath was one of the most consistent and reliable midfield operators at the finals but by the highest standards – and those, surely, must be applied when judging contestants at the World Cup – there was little sign of any creative pattern in midfield.

It seemed a shame that players such as Houghton were submerged into the overall pattern and, no doubt, controversy about Ronnie Whelan's non- appearance in starting line-ups will run and run.

Judged by their history, however, the Irish made immense strides and one only hopes their national team can progress from this base in the forthcoming European championship.

Romania's Hagi holds off Eire defender Morris.

ROMANIA

GIVEN the political problems rumbling on back home, Romania's footballers should probably be given more credit for their World Cup performance than they received.

They began well against the Soviets, were careless against Cameroon and then disciplined against Argentina. But the suspension of Marius Lacatus cost them dearly against the Irish Republic. Gheorghe Hagi played like a man alone, his almost selfish domination of the Romanian game strengthening credence of reports that Hagi and his team-mates were not always on the same wavelength. Certainly he appeared a favoured son. His transfer to Real Madrid had already been agreed but other players hoping to move abroad appeared to be finding problems with red tape back home. One disappointment was goalkeeper Silviu Lung.

SCOTLAND

YET again Scotland shot themselves in the World Cup.

It was not so much that they underestimated Costa Rica, they just did not play well enough to beat them. Coach Andy Roxburgh complained about missed chances. But in the World Cup you dare not waste anything: Brazil and Spain can vouch for that.

Roxburgh was absolutely right to point out how the fixtures conspired against Scotland. They faced Costa Rica in what would always be the underdogs' best game; they ran themselves into the ground against Sweden; and then had few reserves of stamina left to meet Brazil. And that is where the Jim Leighton debate began all over again.

SOUTH KOREA

QUITE the most mean-spirited team at the World Cup finals.

They appeared to have made no technical or tactical progress since 1986 and if this is the best team in Asia then Asian football has real problems. No team in the finals wasted time like the Koreans. They fell down at the slightest bump and consistently fouled opponents.

FIFA president Joao Havelange need not seek to split matches into four quarters in time to suit TV needs at US '94; all he need do is tell every team to play like South Korea.

SOVIET UNION

AS AT the last European championship, where they finished runners-up, the Soviets look secure and powerful when they sit back and wait for the opposition to attack.

When, however, the Soviets have to 'make the play' themselves, they are lost.

Whether this is a fault in the scientific coaching techniques of manager Valeri Lobanobsky or merely a lack of assertive talent among Messrs Zavarov, Aleinkov and Litovchenko remains open to discussion.

The Soviets were the first team eliminated at Italia '90 and flew home blaming the referees.

In fact, if Protasov and Zavarov had taken more advantage of simple chances early in the first game against Romania, the Soviets' World Cup story could have been entirely different.

At the end of the day they had only themselves to blame.

Scotland 'keeper in spectacular form against Costa Rica.

SPAIN

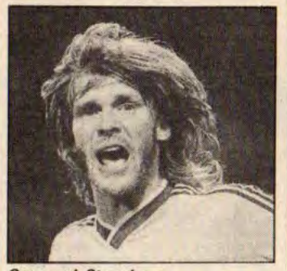
ANOTHER European championship repeat.

Just as in West Germany, Spain began well, hit an early peak, then fell over their own feet. Michel looked superb in scoring his hat-trick against South Korea and was in regal form in front of King Juan Carlos next time out against Belgium. But, just as Spain promise to deliver the goods, so the dream faded.

They were unlucky against Yugoslavia, twice hitting the posts between which nervy goalkeeper Ivkovic seemed incapable of catching even a cold. But the ploy of using Butragueno as a central striker appeared perverse and he and fellow forward Salinas played like total strangers.

That was a pity because Michel and then Martin Vazquez demonstrated plenty of potential in midfield and Zubizarreta was possibly the best goalkeeper at the finals. In the end he was, of course, betrayed by his own defensive wall against Yugoslavia and Stojkovic.

The prospects of Luis Suarez surviving as manager appear limited.



Super-sub Stromberg.

SWEDEN

EXPECTED to do so much better.

Manager Olle Nordin produced his best team, with the possible exception of Stromberg's use as substitute. But, young Brolin apart, the urgency of the occasion never seemed to occur to the Swedes. Larsson and Hysen fell below their dominant high standards in the centre of defence and there was little creative input from midfield.

Twice Stromberg was thrown on late to chase a result. But too little, too late, was really the story of Sweden's World Cup.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

AS delightful as the South Koreans were depressing.

The UAE may have kicked as hard as the rest but they also displayed good technique and intelligent passing. To their immense credit, when a goal chance was 'on' they went for it. They stood up for the potential and ability of Asian football much better than the South Koreans and were, generally, a colourful and welcome addition to the World Cup 'village.'

UNITED STATES

IN TWO years Team America appears to have made little, if any, progress.

Some experienced observers of the US scene even considered their game to have gone backwards under coach Bob Gansler. They totally misjudged the level and intensity of World Cup competition and were thus given a nasty shock by the Czechoslovaks in their first game. Having learned that lesson, they performed with great physical credit against Italy. But, against Austria, the lack of league experience was – literally – painfully obvious.

URUGUAY

MANAGER Oscar Washington Tabarez said he wanted to give Uruguayan football a brand new image.

To some extent he succeeded. The old cynicism and brute unpleasantness was gone. But that gap needs to be filled by a great deal more creative input.

Uruguay were still sticking to their old tactical patterns and, perhaps, to rather too many of their old players. Ruben Paz tried his best in midfield until the fatigue for the better of him; but Enzo Francescoli looked a lonely figure not sure whether he was midfielder or striker; Ruben Sosa was, bluntly, a disaster; and Antonio Alzamendi is clearly four years past his best.

All things considered, Uruguay probably did reasonably well to reach the second round. But their fans and officials certainly won't see it that way.

WEST GERMANY

WEST GERMANY looked, right from the start and their 4-1 defeat of Yugoslavia, one of the very best teams at the finals.

The teamwork and movement of their forwards and midfielders provided a lesson in modern soccer.

As time went on, however, one began to wonder whether the Germans, for once, had started too fast and not paced the finals in their traditional excellent fashion. They did not enjoy their draw against Colombia, were tremendous against Holland but depressed against Czechoslovakia and then patchy against England.

Indeed, against England in that dramatic semi-final in Turin, the Germans were for once let down by two of their otherwise key men, Lothar Matthaus in midfield and Jurgen Klinsmann up front. Add to that the disciplinary and injury problems of Rudi Voller plus team chief Franz Beckenbauer's fussy fiddling with his midfield make-up, and you have the recipe for problems sooner or later.

History, however, had demanded that the West Germans appear for a record third successive time in the Final and that Beckenbauer should become the first man to captain and manage his nation to World Cup Final victory. A bigger superstar, indeed, than any of his players.

YUGOSLAVIA

AFTER losing 4-1 to West Germany in their first match, the Slavs' recovery to reach the quarter-finals was remarkable.

That they then ran Maradona and Co so close was a real feather in the cap of coach Ivica Osim and his players. Osim had to take an awful lot of flak from his own media: one newspaper claimed that after the victory over Colombia Osim had celebrated by drinking one bottle of whisky (Clearly no one national press has exclusive rights to nonsense).

Despite all the inter-regional rivalries he managed to weld together a team which showed unusual spirit and integrity for a Yugoslav side abroad.

Stojkovic scored two beautiful goals against Spain and Prosinecki looked, against Argentina, one of European football's great hopes. Osim used him only sparingly on the basis that, with Stojkovic and Susic 'untouchable,' he could not afford to unbalance his team with another 'fantasist.'

Ivkovic looked one of the poorest goalkeepers in the tournament until the quarter-final against Argentina when his handling skills at last returned. Ironically, having resisted Argentina with ten men after the expulsion of silly Sabanadzovic, the Slavs were just too tired to win the penalty shoot-out.

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ITALIA'90 SQUADS

GROUP A

FIXTURES

June 9 Italy v Austria (Rome, 8pm).
June 10 United States v Czechoslovakia (Florence, 4).
June 14 Italy v United States (Rome, 8).
June 15 Austria v Czechoslovakia (Florence, 4).
June 19 Italy v Czechoslovakia (Rome 8); Austria v United States (Florence 8).

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GROUP B

FIXTURES

June 8 Argentina v Cameroon (Milan, 5).
June 9 Soviet Union v Romania (Bari, 4).
June 13 Argentina v Soviet Union (Naples, 8).
June 14 Cameroon v Romania (Bari, 8).
June 18 Argentina v Romania (Naples,8); Cameroon v Soviet Union (Bari, 8).

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GROUP C

FIXTURES

June 10 Brazil v Sweden (Turin, 8).
June 11 Costa Rica v Scotland (Genoa, 4).
June 16 Brazil v Costa Rica (Turin, 4); Sweden v Scotland (Genoa, 8).
June 20 Brazil v Scotland (Turin, 8); Sweden v Costa Rica (Genoa, 8).

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The Argentine team that lost to Cameroon. Back row left to right: Batista, Pumpido, Sensini, Simon, Fabbri, Ruggeri, Maradona. Front row: Burruchaga, Balbo, Basuaido, Lorenzo.

Klaus Lindenberger of Austria

Mauricio Montero of Costa Rica

Klaus Augenthaler of West Germany

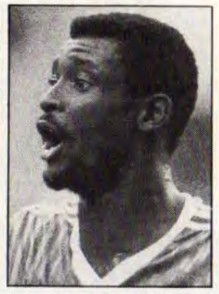
The Republic of Ireland team that drew with England. Back row left to right: Morris, Staunton, Cascarino, Bonner, McCarthy, McGrath. Front row: Aldridge, Sheedy, Houghton, Townsend, Moran.

The Italian team that beat Austria. Back row left to right: Zenga, Maldini, Carnevale, Ancelotti, Ferri, Bergomi. Front row: Giannini, De Napoli, Donadoni, Vialli, Baresi.

The Brazilian team that beat Sweden. Back row left to right: Taffarel, Mauro Galvao, Jorginho, Mozer, Ricardo, Branco. Front row: Muller Alemao, Careca, Dunga, Valdo.

Eric Gerets of Belgium

Santiago Ostolaza of Uruguay



Francois Oman Biyik of Cameroon

LATER STAGES

SECOND ROUND
June 23 Naples (4); Bari (8). June 24 Turin (4); Milan (8). June 25 Rome (8); Genoa (4). June 26 Bologna (8); Verona (4).

QUARTER-FINALS
June 30 Winner Genoa v Winner Rome (Rome 8); Winner Turin v Winner Verona (Florence, 4). July 1 Winner Naples v Winner Bologna (Naples, 8); Winner Bari v Winner Milan (Milan, 4).

SEMI-FINALS
July 3 Winner Florence v Winner Rome (Naples,7); July 4 Winner Milan v Winner Naples (Turin,7).

THIRD PLACE
July 7 Bari (7).

FINAL
July 8 Rome (7).

GROUP D

FIXTURES

June 9 UAE v Colombia (Bologna, 8).
June 10 W Germany v Yugoslavia (Milan, 8).
June 14 Yugoslavia v Colombia (Bologna, 4).
June 15 W Germany v UAE (Milan, 8).
June 19 W Germany v Colombia (Milan,4); Yugoslavia v UAE (Bologna, 4).

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GROUP E

FIXTURES

June 12 Belgium v South Korea (Verona, 4).
June 13 Uruguay v Spain (Udine, 4).
June 17 Belgium v Uruguay (Verona, 4); South Korea v Spain (Udine, 8).
June 21 Belgium v Spain (Verona, 4); South Korea v Uruguay (Udine,4).

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GROUP F

FIXTURES

June 11 England v Republic of Ireland (Cagliari, 8).
June 12 Holland v Egypt (Palermo, 8).
June 16 England v Holland (Cagliari, 8).
June 17 Republic of Ireland v Egypt (Palermo, 4).
June 17 England v Egypt (Cagliari, 8); Republic of Ireland v Holland (Palermo, 8).

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ITALIA'90 FIRST ROUND GROUP A

ITALY'S WINNING STYLE

Italy's golden boy Baggio capped his first game of the finals with a goal against the Czechs.

Austria's Rodax gets ahead of the Czechs in Florence.

Italy v Austria

June 9 – Rome
Italy 1 (Schillaci 77)
Austria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 72,303. **Ref:** Wright (Brz).
Italy: Zenga – Bergomi, Ferri, Baresi, Maldini – Donadoni, De Napoli, Ancelotti (De Agostini 46), Giannini – Carnevale (Schillaci 74), Vialli.
Austria: Lindenberger – Russ, Aigner, Pecl, Schottel – Linzmaier (Hortnagl 77), Herzog, Artner (Zsak 61), Streiter – Ogris, Polster.

WHO can remember an Italian national team attacking with such insistence? Who can remember an Italian national team creating so many openings – not through the traditional counter-attack but through honest, direct, creative play?

The one pity of it all was that for so long there was no reward at the end of it all. Carnevale will be a hero next season to the fans of Roma – having just transferred from Napoli. But at the end of the first half he was looking the unwitting villain of the piece – having missed, for one reason or another, four excellent opportunities.

The first presented itself after only four minutes when Donadoni threaded his pass through the Austrian defence and Lindenberger raced forward to block Carnevale's shot at the expense of a corner. Four minutes later he headed wide, another four minutes and Lindenberger saved courageously again, then Carnevale put perhaps his best chance over the top after a superb cross from Donadoni.

Ironically the closest Italy came in the first half was a Carnevale creation. Vialli squared the ball, Carnevale dummied over it and Ancelotti's fierce drive ricocheted wide off Lindenberger's left-hand post.

On another occasion, Vialli toe-poked the ball narrowly wide after just beating Lindenberger to a lazy backpass.

Austria were rarely seen in attack. Hardly surprising. Their game plan was clear as soon as the team line-up was announced with league top scorer Rodax on the substitutes' bench. Aigner swept, the rest of the back four (Russ, Pecl and Schottel) zone-marked ferociously and Linzmaier and Herzog – midfielders with attacking talent – submerged their gifts.

It could not last forever under such pressure, but for much of the second half it appeared that Austria might indeed defy logic. Giannini headed a Donadoni free kick wide, Vialli made space for a shot then planted the ball wide and De Agostini – who had replaced the fragile Ancelotti at half-time – saw a drive acrobatically tipped over the bar. Italy might have had a penalty when Donadoni appeared to be tripped in the 64th minute. But it was a decision by manager Vicini, not the referee, which ultimately turned the evening the hosts' way.

Vicini has a terrific record with substitutions. In the 74th minute he sent on Schillaci for the luckless Carnevale and was duly rewarded just four minutes later. Vialli produced another of these speciality crosses under pressure from the right and Schillaci headed home firm and hard from the front of the six-yard box.

All Italy, it seemed, rose in celebration. The Azzurri well deserved it.

USA v Czechoslovakia

June 10 – Florence
United States 1 (Caligiuri 60)
Czechoslovakia 5 (Skuhravy 25, 79, Bilek 38pen, Hasek 51, Luhovy 90)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 33,266. **Ref:** Rothliesberger (Swz).
US: Meola – Trittschuh, Armstrong, Windischmann – Caligiuri, Ramos, Stollmeyer (Balboa 63), Harkes, Wynalda – Murray (Sullivan 78), Vermes.
Czechoslovakia: Stejskal – Kadlec, Kocian, Straka, Bilek – Hasek, Chovanec, Kubik, Moravcik (Weiss 83) – Skuhravy, Knoflicek (Luhovy 76).
Sent off: Wynalda (US) 52min.

American skipper Mike Windischmann said on the eve of this match: "We are the Cameroon of our group."

Unfortunately he was wrong. The Americans did not compare with Cameroon by any degree. Their technique was vastly inferior and their big-occasion experience virtually nil. Only in terms of spirit could they claim a comparison. And spirit, against a Czechoslovak side of age, wisdom and European/international technique, just was not enough.

The eventual four-goal margin was not flattering to the Czechoslovaks. They might have had more. And the Americans could not blame the size of defeat on the 52nd-minute expulsion of Wynalda. Indeed, they looked rather better with ten men than they had with 11. It was not only on the pitch that the Americans were a disappointment. Their preparation looked somewhat lacking. Coach Bob Gansler has a reputation as a keen video student of the opposition. Yet two of the goals the Americans conceded were identical near-post headers to Chovanec corners – one of the most basic and well-known of Czechoslovak dead-ball routines.

Soccer, of course, is full of if only stories and this match provided one of those. In only the fourth minute Harkes slipped away behind the right flank of the Czechoslovak defence, only to see Stejskal save his drive at the near post. The goalkeeper was then a little lucky to escape when he allowed a Vermes drive-on-the-turn to fly past him yet skid only inches wide.

That was virtually the end of the contest. Chovanec and Kubik – playing in front of his home-club Fiorentina fans – imposed their skill and creative strength in midfield and by half-time the Czechs were two goals up.

First Skuhravy played a smooth reverse pass move with Moravcik to open the scoring, then Bilek put away a penalty after Hasek was clumsily upended by Windischmann. Meola's safe handling had restricted the score and the US keeper demonstrated his courage in the 50th minute when, having been caught out of position, he crashed into the post saving from Skuhravy. Meola was quickly up – another sign of competitive inexperience (!) – and was very likely not thinking clearly as Chovanec's corner was immediately headed into the net by Hasek.

Solo goal

The Americans' dreams faded still further when Wynalda was sent off for pushing Kadlec to the ground off the ball. But, remarkably, it was at this point that Caligiuri broke away for a solo goal which he took superbly after stepping wide of Stejskal on the run.

That stung the Czechoslovaks back to life. Skuhravy and Knoflicek both wasted two chances apiece before Skuhravy snatched a second personal goal from that other fatal Chovanec corner. In the last minute substitute Luhovy scored from close range on the break. All the US were left to celebrate was an 88th-minute penalty save by Meola – albeit, he was about three yards off his goal-line when he snatched Bilek's woolly spot-kick out of the air.

Italy v USA

June 14 – Rome
Italy 1 (Giannini 11)
United States 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 73,423. **Ref:** Codesal Mendez (Mex).
Italy: Zenga – Bergomi, Baresi, Maldini – Donadoni, De Napoli, Berti, Giannini, Maldini – Vialli, Carnevale (Schillaci 51).
United States: Meola – Doyle, Banks (Stollmeyer 80), Windischmann, Armstrong – Ramos, Balboa, Harkes, Caligiuri – Vermes, Murray (Sullivan 82).

ITALY discovered the flip side to the home advantage coin. The overwhelming support which had lifted them to an opening victory over Austria evaporated as they struggled to beat perhaps the weakest team in the finals.

A single goal after 11 minutes by schemer Giuseppe Giannini brought the victory which virtually ensured their place in the second round. But boos, whistles and jeers erupted from the 73,000 crowd as time went on.

Gianluca Vialli hit a post with a 33rd-minute penalty and Riccardo Ferri had a drive luckily blocked in the 57th minute. But the success of the American containment action was clear when Italy decided to introduce Toto Schillaci, their match-winning substitute against Austria, only six minutes into the second half.

The US had learned the lesson of their five-goal buffeting by Czechoslovakia. Gone was the naive all-out attacking, gone was the flat back four. They used a sweeper and attacked only on the most clear-cut of breaks. One, in the 68th minute, almost proved fatal for Italy. Ferri conceded a free kick, Murray's shot was only parried by keeper Walter Zenga and Ferri then had to clear off the goal-line when Peter Vermes attacked the loose ball. To Italy the points, to America the cheers.

Battling US crash out

Austria v Czechoslovakia

June 15 – Florence
Austria 0
Czechoslovakia 1 (Bilek 29pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 38,962. **Ref: Smith (Sco)**
Austria: Lindenberger – Pecl, Aigner, Pfeffer – Russ (Streiter 46), Hortnagl, Zsak, Schoettel (Ogris 46), Herzog – Polster, Rodax.
Czechoslovakia: Stejskai – Hasek, Kocian, Nemecek, Kadlec – Moravcik, Chovanec (Bielek 30), Kubik, Bilek – Skuhravy, Knoflicek (Weiss 81).

THE NEW spirit of the streets of Prague spilled onto the terraces in Florence as the players and fans of Czechoslovakia danced their way into the second round.

The massed delight at the final whistle suggested that Czech football is reflecting the domestic political renaissance. There could have been no more appropriate city in which to make the point. The Czechs would now face Italy to decide 'only' who would top the group. But they would be without Kubik who, against Austria, collected a second yellow card and an inevitable suspension in tripping Ogris. Another blow was seeing Chovanec carried off after aggravating a thigh injury. He was hurt in the 29th minute, tripped by Lindenberger in pursuit of a 'Scottish' backpass from Anton Pfeffer. Bilek's low penalty provided the decisive goal.

Austria made four changes from the team beaten by Italy. Manager Josef Hickersberger wanted a more attacking look. All he achieved was make his team look more vulnerable in defence. Three times they were rescued by spurious offside decisions from Syrian linesman Jamal Al-Sharif. Then it was thanks to Scottish referee George Smith that Austria finished with all 11 men on the pitch. He ignored FIFA's get-tough campaign as goal-bound Czechs were repeatedly upended.

Italy v Czechoslovakia

June 19 – Rome
Italy 2 (Schillaci 9, Baggio 77)
Czechoslovakia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 73,303. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fr).
Italy: Zenga – Bergomi, Baresi, Ferri, Maldini – Donadoni (De Agostini 51), De Napoli, Berti, Giannini – Baggio, Schillaci.
Czechoslovakia: Stejskal – Hasek, Kinier, Nemecek (Bielek 46), Kadlec – Moravcik, Weiss (Griga 58), Chovanec, Bilek – Skuhravy, Knoflicek.

BAGGIOMANIA struck Italy in no uncertain fashion.

Juventus' star newcomer was introduced for his World Cup baptism in the convenient absence of 'mystery' injury victim Vialli. He combined skilfully with Schillaci and crowned his night with a brilliant solo goal – exchanging passes with Giannini on the halfway line then outfoxing two defenders before shooting confidently beyond Stejskal. That goal, allied to Schillaci's ninth-minute header, wrapped it up for Italy. They had played superbly and earned victory to thrill the nation. Yet there was an element of fortune, with referee Quiniou wrongly disallowing what would have been a 64th-minute equaliser for the Czechs. Quiniou gave Griga offside when he headed home from close range. But TV replays proved not only that Griga was onside when Skuhravy knocked the ball across, but that no competent linesman (or referee) should have had any doubt about the validity of the 'goal.' Italy's conscience about that escape was somewhat eased by the fact that Schillaci should have been awarded a penalty after being floored by Kinier in the 54th minute. Schillaci was his own worst enemy, making such a meal of the fall that Quiniou signalled a 'dive' and awarded a free kick to the Czechs rather than a penalty to Italy. Victory lifted Italy above the Czechs to the top of the group, meaning they would stay in Rome for the second round. The Czechs, missing the suspended Kubik in midfield and with Chovanec below his best because of injury, had half-expected such a result and had already planned their trek down to Bari for their second round date with fate.

Italy and Vialli struggled to beat the Americans.

Austria v USA

June 19 – Florence
Austria 2 (Ogris 49, Rodax 63)
United States 1 (Murray 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,857. **Ref:** Al Sharif (Syr).
Austria: Lindenberger – Pecl, Aigner, Pfeffer – Streiter, Artner, Zsak, Herzog, Ogris – Polster (Reisinger 46), Rodax (Glatzmayer 84).
United States: Meola – Doyle, Banks (Wynalda 55), Windischmann, Armstrong – Balboa, Ramos, Harkes, Caligiuri (Bliss 70) – Murray, Vermes.

Murray of the USA.

AUSTRIA won the match to finish third in the group with faint hopes of squeezing into the second round.

But this was a match to forget. Both teams' disappointment at their results was reflected in the rugged way they approached each tackle. At the end the Americans shaded the fouls count by 18-17. But neither team had anything to feel pleased about. The Austrians violently defended their pride; while the Americans ran on short fuses, which may owe something to the absence of a league programme for national team men.

As tempers began to flare so Austria's Artner was sent off for a two-footed tackle on Vermes. But, not for the first time in these finals, playing with one man fewer did not seem an undue problem. So Austria took the lead early in the second half with solo raid from Ogris. Then Rodax extended the lead with a deft shot into an empty net after a right-wing run from Streiter unhinged the American defence. Murray pulled one goal back from a cross by Ramos – the Americans' top individual in the finals – but it was merely a consolation for their loyal fans. Just to note that the American squad ran to salute those fans at the final whistle. By the time both teams had returned to the dressing room area, tempers had cooled sufficiently for several Austrian and American players to exchange shirts.

Biyick stuns the 1986 World Champions with his goal for "no-hopers" Cameroon.

CRACKING CAMEROON

Argentina v Cameroon

June 8 – Milan
Argentina 0
Cameroon 1 (Omam Biyick 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 73,780. **Ref**: Vautrot (Fr).
Argentina: Pumpido – Ruggeri (Caniggia 46), Simon, Lorenzo – Basualdo, Lorenzo, Batista, Burruchaga, Sensini (Calderon 69) – Maradona, Balbo.
Cameroon: N'kono – Tataw, Ndip, Kunde, Massing, Ebwelle – Makanaky (Milla 82), Mbouh (Libih 66), Kana Biyik, Mfede – Omam Biyick.
Sent off: Kana Biyik (62), Massing (89)

AT LAST, after all the waiting and wondering, the most sensational opening match in World Cup history.

The defending champions beaten by a force out of Africa who not only deserved their triumph but achieved it with nine men after – also deservedly – seeing two of their heroes sent off.

Here, indeed, was a match to bring to World Cup life a city which had greeted the occasion in the most laid-back manner. In the centre of Milan a casual visitor might not have known what was afoot in the western suburbs. But out at San Siro there was no doubt: with the conversion of the Stadio Meazza from a forbidding grey fortress into something resembling a battle station out of Star Wars.

Such a comparison was not inappropriate either, given the antagonism Argentina skipper Diego Maradona inevitably attracted – for obvious domestic reasons – from the Milanese crowd. Very few issues can unite fans of both Milan and Inter: Maradona is one of them. He and his Argentines were greeted with whistles and jeers, Cameroon cheered all the way to glory.

Argentine manager Bilardo surprisingly left Caniggia out of his attack, trusting in Balbo. Cameroon coach Nepomniachi produced a predictable team, withstanding apparent pressure from Cameroon's state President to be comparatively adventurous and play two strikers.

Argentina were quickly into their stride, Balbo forcing an unorthodox third-minute save from N'kono. Referee Vautrot was also quickly on the mark, cautioning Massing after only ten minutes for a foul on Maradona.

As time went on and Argentina's openings were mainly limited to dead– ball forays from Ruggeri – twice badly off target with 'free' headers – so Cameroon realised they dared emerge from their shell. Mbouh prompted them with skill and poise in midfield while Makanaky and Mfede proved earnest chasers and dangerous raiders. In fact, they were playing the sort of midfield game in which Argentina were failing badly.

In the 22nd minute Lorenzo only just scraped the ball off his line to prevent an own goal by Basualdo. Then Ebwelle had a drive blocked by Ruggeri and Pumpido made a fine near-post save from Omam Biyick.

Vautrot looked a little uneasy amid all of this. He cautioned Ndip for a clumsy foot-up challenge which ripped off Maradona's captain's armband.

Argentina began the second half with Caniggia in attack, Ruggeri out and a more orthodox-looking back four. But, despite Caniggia's pace, Argentina looked even more bereft of general ideas in attack.

The positive football was coming from Cameroon. Kana Biyik headed narrowly over the bar but was then sent off in the 62nd minute for tripping Caniggia in full flight. That should have been the end for Cameroon. Instead, just five minutes later, they were in the lead. Argentina conceded a lazy foul out on the Cameroon left; Makanaky deflected the flying free kick across the penalty box and Omam Biyick, with Sensini an inexplicable spectator, headed down for goal. The ball bounced off the surprised Pumpido's knees and on into the net.

Argies scrape home

Argentina's response was to bring on Calderon to try to provide some direction in midfield. This he achieved, to some extent, but too late. Argentina never seriously threatened the increasingly-confident N'kono.

In the last-minutes flurry Massing tripped Caniggia and was duly and properly sent off. But that merely served to give nine-man Cameroon even more cause for joy at the end.

USSR v Romania

June 9 – Bari
Soviet Union 0
Romania 2 (Lacatus 40, 54pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att**: 42,907. **Ref**: Cardellino (Uru).
Sov Union: Dasayev – Gorlukovich, Kuznetsov, Khidiatulin, Besonov – Litovchenko (Yaremchuk 66), Aleinikov, Zavarov, Rats – Protasov, Dobrovolski (Borodyuk 71).
Romania: Lung – Rednic, Andone, Popescu, Klein – Sabau, Lupescu, Rotariu, Timofte – Lacatus (Dumitrescu 87), Raducioiu (Balint 80).

Two goal hero Lacatus.

ONLY two matches played and already the forthcoming fixture between Argentina and the Soviets was shaping up as a battle to avoid the wooden spoon. To maintain a sense of world soccer being turned on its head Romania easily distanced the Soviets – thanks to more than a little good fortune.

At the 1986 World Cup and the 1988 European Championships the Soviets were clearly revealed as an admirably organised unit with plenty of individual talent. But converting that into goals is another matter. Manager Lobanovski's grand scheme appears flawed when his team need to force the pace. That much was evident two years ago against Holland; defeat by Romania appeared to confirm the fact.

Yet the Soviets should have been ahead after only two minutes. Rats put Protasov clear but he allowed Lung the first of several effective s aves. Given that the Soviets create few 'real' chances, it is imperative that they take the ones they get. They paid a heavy price for failure. Protasov was not the only culprit. Zavarov missed badly after a pretty one-two with the Soviets' star striker. Litovchenko saw a deflected free kick well held by the diving Lung and Aleinikov was foiled by the keeper after more delicate construction work by Zavarov.

Romania were rarely seen in attack to serious effect early on. Klein hammered one speculative drive into the side net. But five minutes before the break, on the opposite flank, Rotariu and Sabau suddenly found a huge hole in the Soviet cover. Sabau's pass eluded Aleinikov's lunge and Lacatus strode forward to swerve a drive past Dasayev with the outside of his right foot.

The Soviets' response was to fragment. They lost their shape and their confidence. Dobrovolski, way out on the left, might have been playing in a different stadium. The pace went out of Zavarov's passing, midfield support faded out of sight. Romania not only ran the second half, they toyed with the Soviets in last ten minutes – swinging the ball from man to man with a precision which carried more than a faint hint of political irony.

To reach that stage Romania benefited from a bad decision from referee Cardellino. TV replays showed that a handling offence by Khidiatulin was committed just outside the penalty area as Lacatus bore down on him. Soviet protests were admirably restrained considering that Lacatus's fierce spot kick was a final nail in their coffin.

Lacatus might had a hat-trick. He missed an open goal from a 74th-minute cross by Raducioiu and drew a brilliant flying save from Dasayev with an 80th-minute free kick. In the 86th Lacatus turned back a long Klein cross only see Sabau shoot wastefully high.

Romania, lacking the suspended Hagi, had not played particularly well. But they had taken enough of their chances and manager Jenei could not have asked for more.

Argentina's Caniggia in a midfield duel for the ball with Gorlukovich.

Argentina v USSR

June 13 – Naples
Argentina 2 (Troglio 27, Burruchaga 78)
Soviet union 0
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 55,759. **Ref**: Fredriksson (Swe).
Argentina: Pumpido (Goycochea 11) – Monzon (Lorenzo 77), Simon, Serrizuela – Basualdo, Troglio, Batista, Burruchaga, Olarticoechea – Caniggia, Maradona.
Sov Union: Uvarov – Khidiatulin – Besonov, Aleinikov, Zigmantovich, Gorlukovich – Shalimov, Zavarov (Liuty 84), Dobrovolski – Protasov (Litovchenko 74).
Sent off: Besonov 47min.

THE Hand of God appears an inevitable feature of every World Cup. The hand which helped defeat England four years ago (and more than one opponent at club level) struck again against the Soviets.

In doing so it came to Argentina's rescue at the most desperate moment after 12 minutes. Goalkeeper Pumpido had just been carried off, having broken his right leg in a collision with team-mate Olarticoechea. Substitute keeper Goycochea had barely arrived when Kuznetsov flicked on a Dobrovolski corner from the left and Maradona's right hand saved the day. The crowd barely reacted. He was, after all, on home ground. That was the turning point. Quarter of an hour later it was Maradona's corner which was half-cleared when Olarticoechea's cross was headed easily home by Troglio. The Soviets, who had dropped Dasayev and Litovchenko among others, did have their chances. Zavarov missed the best in the first half and one of the best in the second. Dobrovolski was also guilty of a second-half miss. But by then the Soviets had been reduced to ten men by the expulsion of Besonov (yet another star to pay heavily for tripping Caniggia). With just over ten minutes to go a luckless backpass by Kuznetsov provided Burruchaga with the decisive second Argentine goal. Argentine boss Bilardo was a more relaxed figure afterwards. Soviet boss Lobanovski was quietly furious with Swedish referee Fredriksson. It was, he wasted little time reminding his audience, Fredriksson who had refereed the Soviets' controversial second round defeat by Belgium in Mexico four years ago. Yet another case of history repeating itself.

Cameroon v Romania

June 14 – Bari
Cameroon 2 (Milla 78 and 87)
Romania 1 (Balint 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 38,687. **Ref**: Hernan Silva (Ch).
Cameroon: N'kono – Tataw, Onana, Ndip, Kunde (Pagal 69), Ebwelle – Makanay, Mbouh, Maboang (Milla 58), Mfede – Omam Biyik.
Romania: Lung – Rednic, Andone, Popescu, Klein – Sabau, Timofte, Hagi (Dumitrescu 55), Rotariu – Lacatus, Raducioiu (Balint 63).

ROGER MILLA (his real name is spelled Miller but he thinks 'Milla' is more 'African') was recalled to the Cameroon national squad only apparently on the request of the state President.

It had been expected that his role would be one of bringing experience into the dressing room. Instead he had emerged as a key figure on the pitch too. His goals in this game made him the oldest player ever to score in the finals of a World Cup. He outshone Romania's Hagi as man of the match – though Hagi forced a fine first-half save from N'kono and provided openings spurned by Raducioiu and Rotariu. Hagi had been substituted before Milla arrived to decide the game. First he kept his first after a collision with Andone to shoot Cameroon ahead. Then he smashed a winning drive past Lung. Lacatus headed against a post for Romania who had to be satisfied with a late consolation from their own goal-scoring substitute, Balint. Cameroon protested in vain for an offside decision which never came. Not that it mattered. They were already qualified for the second round.

Milla soon became a big hit in Italy.

Argentina v Romania

June 18 – Naples
Argentina 1 (Monzon 61)
Romania 1 (Balint 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 52,733. **Ref**: Silva Valente (Port)
Argentina: Goycochea – Monzon, Simon, Serrizuela – Basualdo, Troglio (Giusti 52), Batista, Burruchaga (Dezotti 60), Olarticoechea – Caniggia, Maradona.
Romania: Lung – Rednic, Andone, G Popescu, Klein – Sabau (Mateut 82), Lupescu, Hagi, Rotariu – Lacatus, Balint (Lupu 72).

THE equation was a simple one for Argentina and Maradona.

If they won, and Cameroon simultaneously lost to the Soviet Union, Argentina would finish top of the group and stay in Naples for the second round. For seven minutes in the second half that was how it appeared to be working out. Then Romania deservedly equalised Monzon's headed goal from a Maradona corner and Argentina, chase the game how they may, were never better than a point. Romania level on three points and a plus-one goal difference with Argentina, had scored four goals compared with the Cup-holders' three. Because of the maths they knew they would certainly finish among the four best third-placed teams. The match was one, briefly, in which Gheorghe Hagi, the so-called 'Maradona of the Carpathians' looked much better than the real article. At first he looked short of match action – not surprisingly since he missed the first game through suspension and was then substituted in Romania's second. But once he had settled he began pulling Argentina's midfield and defensive cover all over the place. It took a mixture of fine and fumbled saves by Goycochea from Lacatus (twice) and Balint to hold Romania at bay. Monzon's glancing header to a Maradona corner briefly put Argentina in charge of the match and the group. But when Sabau headed back a far post cross from Lacatus there was Balint to equalise. With all their problems back home, no-one could begrudge Romania their first-ever step beyond the first round of the World Cup finals.

Above: Maradona takes to the air against Romania. Below: Zavarov beats N'Kono to score the Soviet's third.

Cameroon v USSR

June 18 – Bari
Cameroon 0
Soviet Union 4 (Protasov 20, Zigmantovich 29, Zavarov 52, Dobrovolski 64)
HT: 0-2. **Att**: 37,307. **Ref**: Wright (Brz).
Cameroon: N'kono – Tataw, Ndip, Onana, Ebwelle – Makanaky (Pagal 58), Mbouh, Kana Biyik, Kunde (Milla 35), Mfede – Omam Biyik.
Sov Union: Uvarov – Gurlukovich, Kuznetsov, Khidiatulin, Demianenko – Shalimov, Litovchenko, Zigmantovich (Zavarov 46), Aleinikov – Protasov, Dobrovolski.

NO SECRETS now. Cameroon needed only a draw to finish top of the group; the Soviets needed a win to stand even the faintest hope of squeezing, somehow, into the second round.

In the end, thanks to the simultaneous draw between Argentina and Rumanma, Cameroon finished top of the group. But their grouping reputation was somewhat dented by the ease with which the Soviets took them apart. It was sadly ironic that only now, when it proved too late, did the Soviets show some of the direction and potential which had remained hidden in their previous two games. Once Protasov had steered the Soviets into the lead from a right-wing Zigmantovich cross, there was no going back. Zigmantovich himself scored the second after Aleinikov went round N'kono. Zavarov made it 3-0 soon aftr arriving as a second-half substitute and Dobrovolski slid in the fourth 12 minutes later. Cameroon came close only once: in the 32nd minute when it took a remarkable saving header on the goal– line from Khidiatulin to keep out a lob from Mbouh. But Cameroon still had plenty to celebrate in defeat with a trip across to Naples for the second round to look forward to.

ITALIA'90
FIRST ROUND
GROUP C

Careca scores the first of his two goals for Brazil against Sweden.

Hysen and Schwarz team up to try and stop Scotland's Mo Johnston.

Costa Rica super sub Medford scores.

BRAZILIANS COAST IN

Brazil v Sweden

June 10 – Turin
Brazil 2 (Careca 40, 62)
Sweden 1 (Brolin 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 62,628. **Ref:** Lanese (It)
Brazil: Taffarel – Jorginho, Mozer, Mauro Galvao, Ricardo Gomes, Branco – Dunga, Alemao, Valdo (Silas 82) – Muller, Careca.
Sweden: Ravelli – R Nilsson, P Larsson, Ljung (Stromberg 70), Schwarz – Limpar, Thern, J Nilsson, Ingesson – Magnusson (Pettersson 46), Brolin.

BRAZIL put their new-look five-man defence on world view, laboured somewhat to victory and left a conclusive view of Lazaroni's tactical revolution until some other day. The one point which this victory underlined is that taking a man out of the midfield/attack leaves the midfield and forward players with an awful lot of extra work to undertake on their own behalf.

Whether Brazil had the physical reserves to go all the way in the World Cup was a supplementary issue. That they had the necessary reserves in terms was undisputable. Romario had recovered fitness, after his broken leg, in time for the finals and Bebeto was another big-name star watching from the sidelines as Muller and Careca got the nod to run down the Swedes.

Brazil's natural skill and style was always in evidence – even during the opening half-hour which was little more than a sparring exercise. Indeed, it was not until the 28th minute that a first crack appeared in either defence – Mozer's overhead bicycle kick curving down behind the far post and just inches over Muller's head.

At the other end Sweden's bright new forward, Tomas Brolin, battled through to force a diving save from Taffarel. That was in the 34th minute. Shortly sfterwards Brolin's urgent skills brought a foul from Mozer and a yellow caution card for the Brazilian defender.

Barely a minute later, Brazil were in front. Branco opened up the Swedish defence with an eye-of-the-needle pass and Careca dummied right to shoot beyond Ravelli. Only a scrambling save from the keeper saved Sweden moments later after Alemao loped onto the end of a disguised backheel from Careca.

Sweden were much more aggressive at the start of the second half. After a Limpar corner on the left Brolin had a close-range shot scrambled off the goal-line and then Taffarel was almost immediately back in action, making a sharp catch when Alemao deflected another Limpar corner.

As the Swedish storm eased off, so Brazil raced away on the counter, Muller provided a simple short cross and Careca rapped his second goal home from close range.

Sweden manager Olle Nordin sent on midfielder Stromberg instead of Ljung (in central defence because of Hysen's injury) to shake up the match. It was a bold, sensible move and was rewarded in the 78th minute when Sweden, on a break of their own after Ravelli saved from Jorginho, pulled a goal back. Brolin well deserved his goal after beautifully outwitting Ricardo.

Sweden finished the game on the attack. Ingesson chipped just over the bar. But Careca came close to a hat-trick goal in the last few minutes at the other end.

Costa Rica v Scotland

June 11 – Genoa
Costa Rica 1 (Cayasso 49)
Scotland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,300. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Costa Rica: Conejo – Chavarria, Flores, Montero, Chavez – Cayasso, Marchena, Gonzalez, Ramirez – Gomez. Jara (Medford 85).
Scotland: Leighton – Gough (McKimmie 46), McPherson, McLeish – McStay, McCall, Aitken, Bett (McCoist 73), Malpas – Johnston, McInally.

EVERY World Cup contains its shocks and upsets. Paradoxically, they are predictable. Just as, in some weird way, Scotland were predictable victims.

But as much as a Scottish disaster, this was a Costa Rican triumph, it was also fascinating to compare them with their fellow Concacaf qualifiers from the United States. Maybe the Costa Ricans did not have the American physical presence. But their technique and their street-wise experience made them a far more effective unit. Finally, in Velibor 'Bora' Milutinovic, they had a manager totally at home with the pressures of a World Cup. There was even one remarkable moment in the second half whem Bora, during an injury halt, took out a pen and paper to draw a tactical instruction for Jara.

Scotland coach Roxburgh must have wished he could have found a simple way to get through to his players. Immediately after the match he pointed to all Scotland's pressure and all Scotland's chances. But World Cup success is about taking chances: Scotland should have learned that lesson four years ago against Uruguay in Mexico. And, when all was said and done, Costa Rica allowed them precious few clear attempts at goal. Gough put a 'free' header over the top after 25 minutes; McStay badly wasted a free kick in front of goal on the hour; and Johnston forced two fine saves from 'keeper Conejo in the 39th and 65th minutes. But then, considering all the play Scotland had, those four opportunities might be considered poor return for the effort. McInally never made his height pay, though Costa Rica looked vulnerable in the air; and Johnston spent much of the game playing what appeared to be a decoy role for someone else to strike inside the penalty box.

The decisive, even historic, moment, arrived four minutes into the second half when Marchena's diagonal run and Jara's neat backheel sliced open the Scottish defence for Cayasso to score from close range. Nor would Bora want anyone to forget the Gonzaelz drive which whipped past Leighton but narrowly wide in the 87th minute.

Bora had been a subject of controversy for rebuilding the Costa Rica squad immediately after taking over only this spring. Suddenly all criticism was forgotten; congratulations were the order of the day.

Cayasso ... a winner for Costa Rica.

Brazil v Costa Rica

June 16 – Turin
Brazil 1 (Muller 33)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Jouini (Tun)
Brazil: Taffarel – Jorginho, Mozer, Mauro Galvao, Ricardo Gomes, Branco – Alemao, Dunga, Valdo (Silas 86) – Muller, Careca (Bebeto 83).
Costa Rica: Conejo – Chavarria, Flores, Montero, Chavez – Cayasso (Guimaraes 78), Marchena, Gonzalez, Ramirez – Gomez, Claudio Jara (Myers 70).

Muller ... a winner for Brazil.

BRAZIL coach Lazaroni found himself trapped. Doubtless he would have liked to select a more attacking team against the central Americans.

But in defence of his five-man defence he had been forced into such a corner that he no option but to continue with it.

But it looked ridiculous – Brazil giving Costa Rica the exaggerated respect of playing with only two full-time forwards. Even their first-half goal came from a set piece – Muller shooting in via Montero's deflective elbow after Mozer headed on a throw-in from the right. Brazil had other first-half chances. Marchena headed against his own bar under pressure, Valdo saw one drive deflected narrowly wide and then forced a sharp save from Conejo with a free kick. Brazil piled men forward with more aggression but a lack of organisation in the second half. Muller headed against the bar and Conejo made fine saves from Careca and Alemao. But the game ended with the extraordinary sight of Brazil defenders Jorginho and Mozer being shown the yellow card for fouls to keep Costa Rica at bay!

Sweden v Costa Rica

June 20 – Genoa
Sweden 1 (Ekstrom 31)
Costa Rica 2 (Flores 75, Medford 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,223. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug).
Sweden: Ravelli – R Nilsson, P Larsson, Hysen, Schwarz – Ingesson, Stromberg (Engqvist 81), J Nilsson – Pettersson, Ekstrom, Brolin (Gren 33).
Costa Rica: Conejo – Chavarria (Guimaraes 73), Flores, Montero, Chavez – Cayasso, Marchena, Gonzalez, Ramirez – Gomez (Medford 60), C Jara.

COSTA RICA'S amazing arrival in the second round of the World Cup finals stood out easily as the greatest triumph in the colourful career of coach Bora Milutinovic.

To turn such rank outsiders into the first Concacaf team to win a World Cup tie in Europe (against Scotland) was achievement enough. To then turn this decisive group match against Sweden upside down was nothing short of the stuff of legends. Sweden needed to win, and hope that Brazil could beat Scotland, to stand a chance of second-round qualification. For much of the game they were within inches of achieving that. Costa Rica keeper Conejo flew around goal in his usual way, making acrobatic saves from Schwarz, Larsson and Ekstrom. On the one occasion he could not hold the ball, after another Schwarz free kick, Ekstrom followed up to score. Sweden lost their direction as the second half went on. They became more tentative, uncertain whether to press for more goals or sit on the one they had. Remarkably, Milutinovic seized the initiative by sending on fresh attacker Hernan Medford. He missed a good chance almost immediately but Sweden failed to heed the warning. A Gonzalez free kick was turned into the equaliser thanks to a glancing header from Flores. Then, with Sweden all upfield in a last-minute panic, Medford jogged away on his own to score the winner. Bora's bonanza!

Sad Scots falter

Sweden v Scotland

June 16 – Genoa
Sweden 1 (Stromberg 85)
Scotland 2 (McCall 10, Johnston 81pen)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 31,823. **Ref:** Maciel (Par).
Sweden: Ravelli – R Nilsson, Hysen, P Larsson (Stromberg 74), Schwarz – Limpar, Thern, J Nilsson, Ingesson – Brolin, Pettersson (Ekstrom 62).
Scotland: Leighton – McPherson, Levein, McLeish – Durie (McStay 76), McCall, Aitken, McLeod, Malpas – Johnston, Fleck (McCoist 83).

SCOTLAND pulled themselves back from the brink of World Cup disaster with a splendidly spirited performance.

Sweden played as if they expected Scotland to lie down right from the start. Instead, the changes made by Scotland coach Roxburgh brought new vigour and revived confidence. Norwich striker Fleck renewed the duel with fit-again Hysen – which had provoked the Liverpool man's expulsion in the league this past season – with more personal success.

Sweden's defence proved fatally vulnerable as early as the tenth minute when McPherson flicked on a right-wing corner and McCall stabbed the ball home from close range amidst a crowd of players.

Scotland came close to a second after 26 minutes. Hysen fouled Fleck just outside the penalty box and Ravelli saved McLeod's free kick at second attempt.

In the second half Fleck and Johnston went close for Scotland and Brolin for Sweden before Johnston increased the Scots' lead from a penalty after Aitken was tripped.

Sweden brought on Stromberg to chase the game, as they had against Brazil.

He pulled one goal back. But again, as against the Brazilians, Sweden had realised the danger much too late.

Scotland thoroughly deserved their victory which put the tens of thousands of their marvellous supporters in the party mood. Suddenly, that defeat by Costa Rica had been forgotten.

Leighton and Gillespie can only watch in horror as Muller's shot ends Scotland's World Cup dreams.

Brazil v Scotland

June 20 – Turin
Brazil 1 (Muller 81)
Scotland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 62,502. **Ref:** Kohl (Aus).
Brazil: Taffarel – Jorginho, Ricardo Rocha, Mauro Galvao, Ricardo Gomes, Branco – Alemao, Dunga, Valdo – Romario (Muller 64), Careca.
Scotland: Leighton – McPherson, Aitken, McLeish – McKimmie, McStay, McCall, MacLeod (Gillespie 38), Malpas – Johnston, McCoist (Fleck 77).

BRAZIL won the match and topped the group.

But they laboured all the way; played more for free kicks than goals; and had only once ever looked like scoring before the untidy winner was popped into the net by substitute Muller. That is not to say that Scotland appeared to match Brazil in terms of individual technique or class. But in terms of understanding what they were about, the Scots were far more sure of foot. Two mistakes proved their undoing and left coach Roxburgh and his men hanging on results the following night to determine their future – or lack of it – in Italia '90. The one mistake was to start playing for time much too early in the second half. Brazil did not appear particularly secure at the back and were not happy to see Scotland pushing up towards them. Unhappily the Scots slowed the match down the longer time went on. Then, in the fateful 81st minute, keeper Leighton – who had caught everything happily all night – could not hold a drive from Alemao. He blocked Careca's drive on the rebound but the ball bounced away again and this time Muller just got there in time. It was hard to tell whether the identity of the scorer was good or bad news for Brazil coach Lazaroni. He had left out Muller from his starting line-up to make way for Romario. But Romario, playing his first game since breaking a leg in March, looked a long way short of match fitness. He had Brazil's one other chance, in the 58th minute. But when clear through he was too slow in shooting and Leighton bravely smothered his shot. Lazaroni reverted to Muller six minutes later and was duly rewarded. But the storm of whistles and jeers which had accompanied the Brazilians to the dressing rooms after a goalless first half had been eloquent testimony to their fans' disenchantment with Lazaroni's approach.

ITALIA'90 FIRST ROUND GROUP D

GERMANS POWER THROUGH

Colombia samba plays on

UAE v Colombia

June 9 – Bologna
United Arab Emirates 0
Colombia 2 (Redin 50, Valderrama 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,791. **Ref:** Courtney (Eng)
UAE: Musabah – Khalil Ghanem Mubarak, Ibrahim Meir, Eisa Meer, Yousef Husain – Thanijuma, Abdullah (Sultan 75), Ghuloom, N K Mubarak – Fahad Khamis (Bilal 59), Al Talyani.
Colombia: Higuita – Escobar, Herrera, Perea, Gildardo Gomez – Redin, Alvarez, Valderrama, Gabriel Gomez – Rincon, Iguaran (Estrada 70).

CONVENTIONAL World Cup wisdom says that rank outsiders are at their most bright and threatening in their first game. Cameroon had, apparently, proved the point a day earlier. But Colombia's first-ever finals victory went some way towards restoring the status quo.

The UAE were lively rivals and were not afraid to commit themselves to a well– organised pressing attack now and again. Against a northern European side they might have caused more embarrassment than the one or two moments of near-farce which were produced in the untamed Higuita's goal area. In terms of technique the UAE players were all impressive. But they showed no real understanding of how to pace a match and the Colombians' own superior skills were more than effective enough.

Colombian coach Maturana was not wholly satisfied with his team. But, if anything, the worst one could say about Colombia was that they looked like a team in need of a stiffer test. That would, of course, shortly come their way.

Booked

The UAE were far from overawed by the opposition. Indeed, they tried to prove the opposite and Eisa Meer was duly yellow-carded after only four minutes after Valderrama was tripped for the second time in 15 seconds. They dared attack, as well. Higuita once raced from his penalty area to head clear as his outfield team-mates looked somewhat bemused by the non-stop competition.

Time was on their side. After 20 minutes the UAE were being pushed back in their place. Muhsin was lucky to escape after dropping a corner, then Colombia might have had a penalty for handball awarded against Khalil Ghanem Mubarak. Four minutes before the break Rincon should have done better than waste the best chance so far after creating both lots of space and lots of time.

Four minutes into the second half and Colombia, deservedly, were ahead. Their best player, Alvarez, outmanoeuvred the UAE offside trap and crossed for Redin to head decisively back inside the near post.

The UAE never mounted a serious challenge to Colombia. But it was not until five minutes from the end that Valderrama wrapped it all up. The UAE were punished for an attacking raid as Estrada broke up the right and fired a long pass into Valderrama's path. Valderrama may look weird, but on the ball he looks 101 per cent footballer and his drive from just outside the penalty box dipped wickedly beneath the diving Musabah's left hand.

Club-mates Klinsmann and Brehme (right) show skipper Matthaus how they feel about his first goal against Yugoslavia.

W. Germany v Yugoslavia

June 10 – Milan
West Germany 4 (Matthaus 28, 63, Klinsmann 39, Voller 69)
Yugoslavia 1 (Jozic 54)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 74,765. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)
West Germany: Illgner – Reuter, Berthold, Augenthaler, Buchwald – Hassler (Littbarski 74), Bein (Moller 74), Matthaus, Brehme – Voller, Klinsmann.
Yugoslavia: Ivkovic – Hadzibegic, Jozic, Spasic – Vulic, Stojkovic, Susic (Prosinecki 55), Katanec, Baljic – Savicevic (Brnovic 55), Vujovic.

WEST GERMANY began the World Cup finals with as impressive an all-round team display as Italy the previous day: the difference between the two teams – at this early stage – was that the Germans could put the ball the net not just once, but frequently. Franz Beckenbauer's men benefited from their own dose of home advantage, courtesy of the Internazionale trio of Matthaus, Brehme and Klinsmann.

Skipper Matthaus scored with two superb long-range drives – the second even better than the first – and had enough energy and determination left to play Slav schemer Stojkovic out of the match; Klinsmann scored the Germans' second goal with a spectacular diving header; and Brehme provided the cross for Klinsmann's goal and later forced the handling blunder by Ivkovic which let in Voller to score the Germans' fourth.

The Germans have a tradition of starting a World Cup slowly so this indeed appeared impressive. This was a German team which looked far, far better than the side which finished runners-up in Mexico four years ago. Beckenbauer permitted himself the luxury of a smile at the end. The display, he said, was 'merely' the product of all the work which his players had put in over the past few weeks.

That said, it took the Germans a few minutes to sort themselves out on the pitch: with Reuter at right back, Berthold as a stopper on Vujovic and Buchwald, normally a stopper himself, playing leftback on Savicevic.

Strengths

A flurry of spiteful, snappy 'tackles' ended in a sixth-minute yellow card for Brehme as the teams probed each other's strengths and weaknesses. What emerged was that the Germans had most of the strengths and the Slavs most of the weaknesses. After around 20 minutes the Germans suddenly hit their game. Any man on the ball always had at least three targets running for him and the Slavs, some experts' dark horses, were being stampeded to defeat.

Matthaus opened the scoring. Reuter flipped a beautiful pass inside from the right, Matthaus turned Jozic and shot from 25 yards down past Ivkovic's right hand. Soon there were two. The Slavs insisted on allowing Brehme a suicidal amount of space out on the German left. Augenthaler found him with a superb crossfield pass and when Brehme arrowed in his own centre Klinsmann dived forward at the near post to glance the ball across Ivkovic and inside the other upright.

That Jozic pulled a goal back early in the second half speaks volumes for Slav spirit since manager Osim admitted later that, at the interval, "I could see no way we could get back in the game – the Germans were playing so well."

Any illusion was quickly shattered.

Matthaus ran from halfway, hurdled a tackle by Jozic like Ed Moses and fired another thunderbolt past Ivkovic. Six more minutes and the Slav keeper had whatever remained of his confidence shattered. Brehme, playing one of his best-ever games for his country, fired in a cross-shot from the left. Ivkovic dropped the ball over his shoulder and the ever-alert Voller just beat him to the final touch.

Beckenbauer took the opportunity of giving Littbarski and Moller a run over the last 16 minutes and Littbarski might have added to the score. Brehme sent him clear but Littbarski hesitated when faced by the lonely Ivkovic and was dispossessed.

It mattered little. Indeed, the only shadow over the German team's success was outside their control: the bloody battling between German and Slav fansd which led to dozen of arrests and thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Yugoslavia v Colombia

June 14 – Bologna
Yugoslavia 1 (Jozic 73)
Colombia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 32,257. **Ref:** Agnolin (It).
Yugoslavia: Ivkovic – Stankojkovic, Hadzibegic, Jozic, Spasic – Sabanadzovic, Stojkovic, Susic, Katanec (Jarni 46), Brnovic – Vujovic (Pancev 53).
Colombia: Higuita – Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Gildardo Gomez – Alvarez, Gabriel Gomez, Valderrama, Redin (Estrada 79) – Iguaran, Rincon (Hernandez 68).

YUGOSLAVIA regained their finals equilibrium after the opening disappointment against West Germany. Coach Osim made two changes to strengthen midfield and they controlled most of the match. Colombia enjoyed plenty of possession but rarely provided any serious threat to Ivkovic.

He made one sharp first-half save from Iguaran after 36 minutes and that was the extent of his serious work. Opposite number Higuita was far more busy. He had a couple of his excursions upfield and even saved a 79th-minute penalty by Hadzibegic. Higuita had been well beaten six minutes earlier when Stojkovic crossed from the right and attacking sweeper Jozic chested the ball down before volleying into the roof of the net. The biggest cheers of the day, however, were reserved for scoreboard announcements of Cameroon's goals and victory in Bari.

Hadzibegic missed his spot-kick.

W. Germany v UAE

June 15 – Milan
West Germany 5 (Voller 35, 75, Klinsmann 36, Matthaus 46, Bein 58)
United Arab Emirates 1 (Khalid Ibrahim Mubarak 45)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 71,167. **Ref:** Spirin (SU)
W Germany: Illgner – Reuter, Berthold (Littbarski 46), Augenthaler, Buchwald – Hassler, Matthaus, Bein, Brehme – Voller, Klinsmann (Riedle 71).
UAE: Muhsin Musabah – Khalil Ghanem, Ibrahim Meer (Al Haddad 87), Eisa Meer, Yousef Husain – Thanijima, Abdullah, Ghuloom, Nasser Khamis – Khalil Ibrahim Mubarak (Husain Hasan Mohammed 82), Al Talyani.

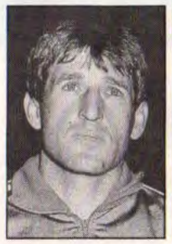
EASY for West Germany. They showed Italy, so awkward against the United States, how to deal with weak opposition.

The Germans produced the full free-flowing movement which had overwhelmed Yugoslavia. Also, as against Yugoslavia, they demonstrated their ability to get the ball in the net.

In the opening minutes they threatened an avalanche. Voller had a shot saved at close range, Klinsmann missed an open and hit a post and both strikers missed badly within seconds of each other. Finally, after 35 minutes, Matthaus sent Klinsmann clear up the right and Voller headed his cross into the net. Inside two minutes Klinsmann had converted a Reuter cross for No 2. Beckenbauer brought on Littbarski for defender Berthold at the start of the second half and the Emirates took immediately advantage as Khalil Ibrahim ran through the gap Berthold had left to pull one goal back. Their delight was soon dampened, in more ways than one. As the rain poured down through the expensively useless new roof, so Matthaus, Bein and Voller claimed further German goals to leave no doubt about who was really in charge.

Yugoslavia v UAE

June 19 – Bologna
Yugoslavia 4 (Susic 4, Pancev 8 and 46, Prosinecki 90)
United Arab Emirates 1 (Juma 21)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 27,833. **Ref:** Takada (Jpn)
Yugoslavia: Ivkovic – Stanojkovic, Hadzibegic, Jozic, Spasic – Susic, Sabanadzovic (Prosinecki 78), Stojkovic, Brnovic – Pancev, Vujovic (Vulic 64)
UAE: Muhsin Musabah – Khalil Ghanem, Ibrahim Meer, Eisa Meer, Abdulrahman Al Haddad – Juma (Fahad Khamis 46), Abdullah, Husain Ghuloom, Nasser Khamis (Sultan 34) – Khalil Ibrahim Mubarak, Al Talyani.
Sent off: Khalil Ghanem, 76min.



Susic scored first against UAE.

FURTHER progress for Yugoslavia.

Not only did this victory clinch second place in the group it was the result of a steady improvement in performance. Against the Germans they fell apart; against Colombia they pulled themselves together; against the Emirates they found opposition who gave them time and space in which to regain lost confidence. Darko Pancev struck twice in a comfortable victory whose margin could have been much larger. The UAE, visibly tiring in their third game in little more than a week, popped up with pride-preserving consolation goal but they finished with only ten men after the expulsion of Khalil Ghanem for a second yellow card offence.

Colombia's colourful Valderrama can't find a way past UAE defender Eisa Meer.

Colombia close down West Germany dangermen Voller and Berthold.

Colombia's Gomez finds one way of stopping Katanec in their game against Yugoslavia.

W. Germany v Colombia

June 19 – Milan
West Germany 1 (Littbarski 88)
Colombia 1 (Rincon 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 72,510. **Ref:** Snoddy (NI).
W Germany: Illgner – Reuter, Berthold, Augenthaler, Buchwald – Hassler (Thon 88), Matthaus, Bein (Littbarski 46), Pflugler – Voller, Klinsmann.
Colombia: Higuita – Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Gildardo Gomez – Alvarez, Fajardo, Valderrama, Gabriel Gomez – Estrada, Rincon.

COLOMBIA provided tougher opposition than the West Germans might have expected.

That they made such a tight match of it was partly thanks to referee Snoddy, who clamped down ruthlessly in the first half when Valderrama and Rincon tried to play up fouls and injuries. Rincon should have scored after 20 minutes and Estrada was just over the top with a header. The Germans, by comparison, were unlucky in the second half when a Matthaus chip bounced on top of the bar. With two minutes to go substitute Littbarski shot past Higuita on the near post to put the Germans ahead. But Colombia strolled back into attack in injury time and snatched a point with a Rincon drive which skidded between the onrushing Illgner's legs. West Germany remained comfortably top of the group – and no doubt quietly pleased to have had such a test after the comfortable despatch of the UAE.

ITALIA'90
FIRST ROUND GROUP E

SPAIN REIGN

Belgium v S. Korea

June 12 – Verona
Belgium 2 (Degrijse 51, De Wolf 62)
South Korea 0
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 32,790. **Ref**: Mauro (US)
Belgium: Preud'homme – Gerets, Clijsters, Demol, De Wolf – Emmers, Van der Elst, Scifo, Versavel (Ceulemans 46) – Degryse, Van der Linden.
South Korea: Choi In-young – Choi Kang-hee, Park, Hong, Gu – Choi Soon-ho, Lee Young-jin (Cho 46), Chung, Noh (Lee Tae-ho 61) – Kim Joo-sung, Hwang.

BELGIUM did not start their World Cup in the best of humours. Manager Guy Thys made no secret of the fact that, unlike other managers, he was not ruled by loyalty to his old players.

Thus there was no place in his starting line-up for veteran captain Jan Ceulemans – but Thys duly had profitable second thoughts at half-time. More evidence, perhaps, that the Belgians' preparation had been badly planned.

Blaming club commitments in Europe the federation had fixed no warm-up internationals between early spring and the end of the league campaign. Thus Belgium had been in action against Poland as late as the Wednesday before the start of the finals.

The Koreans, by contrast, considered themselves as ideally-organised. They were up at five or six every morning as part of their World Cup discipline. Thus it was perhaps hardly surprising that their defence was caught sleeping on several occasions in the first half.

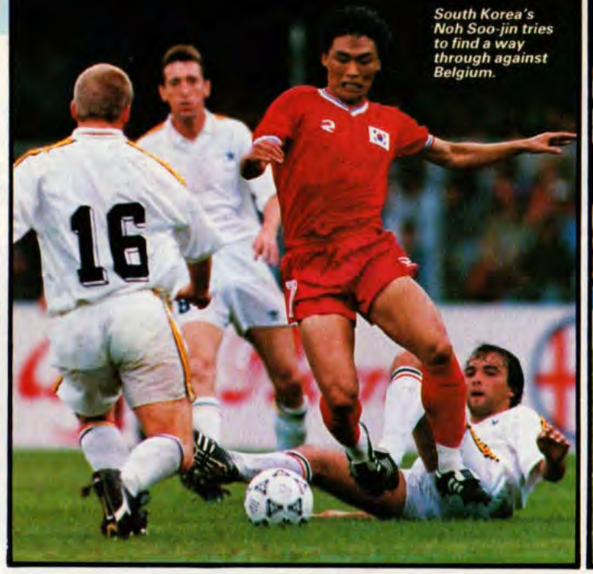
The safe hands of keeper Choi In-young came to their rescue half-a-dozen times. On the one occasion he was beaten, after six minutes, the post kept out a shot from Versavel.

Kim Joo-sung lived up to his pre-match billing as the new star of South Korean soccer. But the Belgians' all-round strength meant he had few opportunities to demonstrate his skill and pace. He had even fewer in the second half as Belgium sewed up the points.

Demol was unlucky in the 47th minute when his drive struck the keeper and flew over the bar. But four minutes' later the ball was in the back of the net – Scifo hitting a long pass into the Korean half and Degryse beating the onrushing keeper with a quick, high lob.

Eleven minutes later and De Wolf hammered a superb second after the Koreans failed to clear a corner. And the credit? Much of it had to be due to Ceulemans, whose arrival up front had provided a more aggressive look and more positive options.

Degryse scored shortly after half-time.



South Korea's Noh Soo-jin tries to find a way through against Belgium.

Spain striker Butragueno powers a header towards Belgium's goal.

Francescoli takes on the Spain defence single-handed.

Uruguay v Spain

June 13 – Udine
Uruguay 0
Spain 0
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 35,713. **Ref**: Kohl (Aus).
Uruguay: Alvez – Herrera, Gutierrez, De Leon, Dominguez – Perdomo, Paz, Sosa, Pereira (Aguilera 63) – Alzamendi (Correia 63), Francescoli.
Spain: Zubizarreta – Chendo, Sanchis, Andrinua, Jimenez – Michel, Villaroya (Gorriz 79), Martin Vazquez, Roberto – Butragueno, Manolo (Rafa Paz 79).

URUGUAY were one of the first nations to arrive in Italy. They did so off a springboard including an exciting 3-3 draw in West Germany and a 2-1 win over England at Wembley.

They also began the World Cup with manager Oscar Washington Tabarez promising a new image after the cynical World Cup campaigns of the recent past.

Spain had a lot of international ground to make up after their European finals disappointment in 1988. Skipper and star forward Butragueno made encouraging noises beforehand.

The problem in the past, he said, was that previous managers Santamaria and Munoz were too old. Their generation had little in common with today's players.

With Luiz Suarez it was all different. It did not look all that different. Spain held the same 4-4-2 shape with which they had flattered only to deceive in West Germany two years ago.

Uruguay, ominously strong and quick on the break, came closest to a goal in the first half. In the 28th a terrific break by Sosa, on one of many astute passes from Ruben Paz, gave Alzamendi the chance to turn and shot for goal.

Zubizarreta, who had a superb game, tipped the ball onto the bar and it bounced away for a corner. Minutes earlier Spain had gained – and wasted – what would prove their only chance of the game. Gutierrez weakly nodded a centre to the edge of the penalty box but Butragueno's shot sliced away.

Spain's second-half effort produced nothing further and they were, in the end, lucky to save a point. In the 71st minute Villaroyo handled on the goal-line only for Sosa to blast the penalty high over the bar. Sosa blamed his own homework.

He said later: "I had studied Zubizarreta too much on television. I knew which way he would go so I wanted to shoot the other way. Then I didn't concentrate on how I hit the ball."

Belgium v Uruguay

June 17 – Verona
Belgium 3 (Clijsters 14, Scifo 21, Ceulemans 46)
Uruguay 1 (Bengoechea 71)
HT: 2-0. **Att**: 33,000. **Ref**: Kirschen (EG).
Belgium: Preud'homme – Gerets, Grun, Demol, De Wolf – Clijsters (Emmers 46), Scifo, Van der Elst, Versavel (Vervoort 72) – Ceulemans, Degryse.
Uruguay: Alvez – Herrera, Gutierrez, De Leon, Dominguez – Alzamendi (Aguilera 46), Ostolaza (Bengoechea 56), Perdomo, Paz – Francescoli, Sosa.
Sent off: Gerets, 41 min.

THE best game of the finals thus far.

Belgium had achieved a remarkable transformation since the return of veteran Guy Thys as manager. Uruguay paid the penalty for a midfield which proved far too static and slow and never gave Sosa and Francescoli the support they needed to thread their way through the Belgian defence.

Belgium made a superb start. Their passes and angles were terrific and they rode, with few real problems, the expulsion of veteran Gerets in the 41st minute. Gerets was shown a first yellow card for fouling Paz in the 35th minute then a second yellow card for persistent fouling. That also meant red.

By then, however, Belgium were two up. Clijsters headed a superb first from a De Wolf cross then the back-in-form Scifo whacked a second from fully 30 yards.

Uruguay came out for the second half probably confident of making their one-man advantage tell. But Belgium hit them on the break with Ceulemans striding away to shoot past Alvez after just 49 seconds of the restart.

Uruguay, realising the importance of reducing the goal difference quota even if they could not win, attacked for the rest of the match.

But all they had to show for their efforts was a fine volleyed goal from substitute Bengoechea.

S. Korea v Spain

June 17 – Udine
Spain 3 (Michel 23, 60, 80)
South Korea 1 (Kwan 43)
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 32,733. **Ref**: Guerrero (Ec).
Spain: Zubizarreta – Chendo, Gorriz, Andrinua, Sanchis – Michel, Roberto (Baquero 81), Martin Vazquez, Villaroya – Salinas, Butragueno (Fernando 76).
S Korea: Choi In-young – Park (Chung Jong-soo 68), Choi Kang-he, Hong, Gu – Kwan, Choi Soon-ho, Chung Hae-won (Noh 52), Yoon – Byun, Kim Joo-sung.

SPAIN'S football is a mystery. Players who look worldbeaters in the kit of Real Madrid or Barcelona not only look less than ordinary in the national dress, they also forget how to pass and control a ball.

It's a national team disease and against a more talented team than South Korea it would have proved disastrous.

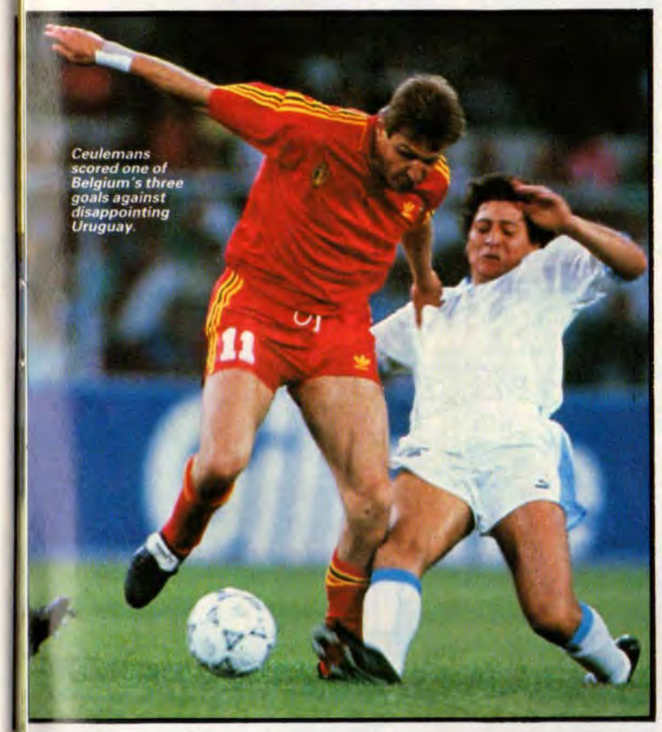
Fortunately the Koreans, tough and awkward, are not the most imaginative of footballers. Thus, even though they claimed a goal of awesome power thanks to Kwan, they also conceded three through poor defensive organisation.

Michel was the Spanish star to benefit, with the first hat-trick of the finals. His confidence has suffered badly over the past two years, where he has been overshadowed for various reasons at Madrid by Schuster and Martin Vazquez.

But this was the game in which Michel came back into his own. A right-foot volley to a Villaroya cross opened the scoring for Spain; a terrific free kick regained them the lead on the hour; and a beautiful individual effort was the icing on the cake and his hat-trick.

Butragueno should have had a penalty; Roberto saw a saw luckily blocked by the keeper's legs; and Salinas was denied a goal by a controversial offside decision. The Koreans were very clearly second-best.

Bold Belgians impress



Ceulemans scored one of Belgium's three goals against disappointing Uruguay.

Belgium v Spain

June 21 – Verona
Belgium 1 (Vervoort 29)
Spain 2 (Michel 26pen, Gorriz 38)
HT: 1-2. **Att**: 35,950. **Ref**: Loustau (Arg)
Belgium: Preud'homme – Staelans (Van der Linden 78), Albert, Demol, De Wolf – Emmers (Plovie 17), Scifo, Van der Elst, Vervoort – Degryse, Ceulemans.
Spain: Zubizarreta – Chendo, Sanchis, Andrinua, Gorriz – Villaroya, Michel, Fernandnez, Martin Vazquez – Butragueno (Alkorta 83), Salinas (Pardeza 87).

SPAIN turned on a result fit for King Juan Carlos, their surprise victory leapfrogging them over Belgium to the top of the group.

The Belgians looked nothing like the team which had won their previous games against the Koreans and Uruguayans.

On the one hand that was not surprising, because manager Guy Thys had to make four changes through injuries and suspension and then Scifo missed a 59th-minute penalty – shooting against the bar after Staelans was tripped by Gorriz.

Otherwise the Belgians showed little of the commitment which had made them look so dangerous. .

Consistency

Spain, with all their usual internal dissent and upset, played with surprising consistency. Michel was again the hero of the day. He converted their first goal from the penalty spot after Salinas was brought down by Preud'homme. Then, having been fouled out on the left, he curled over a far-post free kick which Gorriz headed home for what proved the winner.

In between those two goals Vervoort scored the best of the match, smashing in a free kick in the 29th minute after Scifo was tripped by Roberto.

Michel and Butragueno also missed early first-half openings, while Spain keeper Zubizarreta was twice quick from his line to save from Van der Elst in the first half and then Degryse four minutes from time.

Spain were top of the group, they had risen to the royal occasion, and Michel – with four goals – was the competition's leading scorer.

Uruguay v S. Korea

June 21 – Udine
Uruguay 1 (Fonseca 90)
South Korea 0
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 29,039. **Ref**: Lanese (It).
Uruguay: Alvez – Herrera, Gutierrez, De Leon, Dominguez – Martinez, Ostolaza (Aguilera 46), Perdomo, Paz – Francescoli, Sosa (Fonseca 63).
S Korea: Choi In-young – Park, Choi Kang-he, Hong, Lee heung-sil, Hwang Bo-kwan (Chung Hae-won 78), Choi Soon-ho, Chung Jong-soo, Yoon – Byun (Hwang Seon-hong 42), Kim Jong-soo.

HOW strange to see Uruguay more sinned against than sinning. They squeaked into the second round courtesy of a header from substitute Fonseca 29 seconds from the end of injury time.

The Koreans appeared hugely disappointed that they had not managed to scrape one point of this World Cup. But they did not deserve it.

They committed more fouls (86) in the first round than any other team and they did more in the cause of these finals to reduce Asia's finals representation than any of the UAE naivety.

Whisker

Uruguay attacked from the start. They needed victory to secure their second round place and they came within a whisker of the lead when Sosa struck the post after 40 seconds.

But Uruguay are not used to forcing the pace. They did not know how to. For all their attacking they let themselves down time and again with hasty, ill-judged final passes.

And, in midfield and around the penalty box, they were repeatedly fouled by the mean-spirited Koreans.

Once or twice South Korea came close on the break. But by the end, with a record 11 yellow cards and the deserved expulsion of Yoon for time-wasting, the Koreans got their just deserts.

The prize (?) for Uruguay, through the first round for the first time since 1970, would be to face hosts Italy in Rome.

ITALIA'90
FIRST ROUND GROUP F

ENGLAND BREAK DEADLOCK

Gary Lineker scores England's goal against the Republic of Ireland.

England v Rep of Ireland

June 11 – Cagliari
England 1 (Lineker 8)
Rep. of Ireland 1 (Sheedy 73)
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 35,238. **Ref**: Aron Schmidhuber (W.Ger).

England: Shilton – Stevens, Pearce, Walker, Butcher – Robson, Gascoigne, Waddle, Barnes – Beardsley (McMahon 69), Lineker (Bull).

Rep. of Ireland: Bonner – Morris, Staunton, McCarthy, Moran, McGrath – Houghton, Sheedy, Townsend – Aldridge (McLoughlin 64), Cascarino.

'No football please, we're British'. The tongue-in-cheek headline which greeted England's atrocious 1-1 draw with the Republic of Ireland had more than a slight ring of truth about it.

Only England midfielder Paul Gascoigne, one of the youngest and least experienced players on show, looked capable of rising above the conditions and the somewhat crude intentions of those around him.

The Irish long ball system was always going to be a decisive factor and clearly unsettled England who seemed to have learned little or nothing from their clash in Stuttgart two years before.

On that occasion Bobby Robson's men attempted to fight fire with fire by reacting with an aerial assault of their own. But with the slightly-built figures of Lineker and Beardsley battling for high balls with McCarthy and Moran they were on a hiding to nothing.

A similar tale appeared to be unfolding in Cagliari but, unlike the European Championship encounter of 1988, it was England who made the early breakthrough.

Seizing on the sort of through ball he relishes yet rarely received, Gary Lineker chested Waddle's incisive pass beyond the diving Pat Bonner before beating McCarthy and Steve Staunton in a race to the line.

For Lineker, leading scorer in the 1986 World Cup finals, it was a dream start as he collected his 32nd international goal in just his 52nd England appearance ... just 60 seconds later than Ray Houghton's killer strike in Stuttgart.

Skipper Bryan Robson, hampered by a toe injury and the constant shadowing by his former Manchester United team-mate Paul McGrath, was unable to inspire his country to victory.

Beardsley and Barnes were ineffective and with Waddle still not recovered from his exersions in the French title race with Marseille, were unable to assume control on a night when the ball seemed to be in the air longer than the London-Dublin shuttle.

Peter Shilton, making his record equalling 119th appearance, so desperately wanted to keep a clean sheet but even he was unable to do anything about Kevin Sheedy's 74th minute equaliser.

The blame for the goal will forever lie at the feet of England substitute Steve McMahon who conceded vital possession outside the box with virtually his first touch of the ball.

But all his team-mates must shoulder responsibility for carelessly relinquishing a valuable point, just as all the players of both nations should accept responsibility for a match which made them the laughing stock of the world.

Holland v Egypt

June 12 – Palermo
Holland 1 (Kieft 58)
Egypt 1 (Abel-Ghani 82 pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 33,288. **Ref**: Emilio Soriano Aldaren.

Holland: van Breukelen – van Aerle, Rijkaard, R Koeman, Rutjes – Wouters, van Tiggelen, E Koeman, Vanenburg (Kieft 45) – van Basten, Gullit.

Egypt: Shoubeir – I Hassan, Yassin, H Ramzy, A Ramzy (Tolba 68) – Yakan, Yousef, Abed El Ghani, Abed El Hamid (Abed El Rahman 68) – H Hassan, Ahmed El Kass.

ANYONE who thought Egypt would be the whipping boys of Group F were made to think again as the Africans piled on the misery for the disgruntled Dutch in a fascinating struggle in Palermo.

Discontentment in the Holland camp, where player power and disillusionment with the tactics of new coach Leo Beenhakker have created an unhealthy atmosphere, was blatantly apparent as the European Champions were humbled by the so-called Egyptian no-hopers.

Egypt's 3-1 defeat of Scotland in Aberdeen towards the end of their five-month World Cup build-up was seen to be no fluke as they produced a blend of imaginitive, intelligent football which had been sadly missing in Cagliari 24 hours before.

Their technique, coupled with great vision and confidence, gave them a continental look and was testimony to the great strides African nations have taken in recent years.

They were quite happy to take the game to Holland, certainly not overawed by the presence of world greats such as Gullit and Van Basten, and their supreme skills, carried out at lightning speed too, made them a constant threat.

The pressure they applied early on clearly took the Dutch by surprise and Egypt came close on several occasions to capitalising on the indecisiveness of their bewildered opponents.

Abdel Hamid (No.20) was a constant thorn in the Dutch side while Hani Ramzy and Yakan Hesham, whose job it was to defuse the threat of Ruud Gullit, were equally impressive in their supporting roles.

Gullit, still only 75 per cent fit after three knee operations, was a shadow of the player who shone like a beacon in the European Championships and seemingly powerless to resist the refreshing effervescence and enthusiasm of the Egyptians.

Even the Dutch fans in the crowd warmed to the Africans although their hearts must have been in their mouths seven minutes into the second half when Elkas made the elegant Frank Rijkaard look like a Sunday morning parks' player with a series of twist and turns which left the AC Milan defender for dead.

Egypt celebrate after their draw v. Holland.

Elkas' cross was met first time by Abdel Hamid and it needed a diving save from Van Breukelen in the Dutch goal to avert a major catastrophe.

It was only when Kieft replaced Vanenburg, in order to support the isolated Van Basten, that Holland began to make any impression. Indeed it was Kieft who broke the deadlock after 58 minutes when Rijkaard dumied a Van Basten cross leaving the substitute striker unmarked to prod a close range shot past Shoubeir.

The goal came against the run of play and it was no more than Egypt deserved when they were awarded a penalty eight minutes from time when Hossam Hassan was sent tumbling inside the box.

Hani Ramzy made no mistake from the spot and the incredible celebrations which followed were to continue long into the night. Gullit missed a glorious chance late on but the day belonged to Egypt in this, the year of the underdog.

England v Holland

June 16 – Cagliari
England (0) 0
Holland (0) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 35,267. **Ref**: Zoran Petrovic.

England: Shilton – Wright, Parker, Butcher, Walker, Pearce – Robson (Platt 65), Gascoigne, Waddle (Bull 59), Barnes – Lineker.

Holland: van Breukelen – Koeman, Van Aerle, Rijkaard, van Tiggelen – Van't Schip (Kieft 74), Gullit, Wouters, Witschge – Gillhaus, van Basten.

ENGLAND had two goals disallowed, one in the dying seconds, as the points were shared in an encounter that confirmed a demise in the Dutch game.

Although Leo Beenhakker's side were vastly improved from their opening match against Egypt, the lack of sparkle from their Milan stars – Rijkaard, Gullit and van Basten – was a source of concern.

England, too, were a different side from the one that had battled to a point against the Republic of Ireland.

Rep of Ireland v Egypt

June 17 – Palermo
Rep. of Ireland (0) 0
Egypt (0) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 33,288. **Ref**: Marcel Van Langenhove.

Rep. of Ireland: Bonner – Morris, McCarthy, Moran, Staunton – Houghton, McGrath, Townsend, Sheedy – Cascarino (Quinn 84), Aldridge (McLoughlin 64).

Egypt: Shoubeir – I Hassan, Yassein, H Ramzy, Tolba (Abou Zeid 59) – Yakan, Yousef, Abed El Ghani, Oraby – H Hassan, Ahmed El Kass (Abedel Hamid 76).

JACK CHARLTON's hope that the Irish would guarantee qualification with victory over the Egyptians, was scuppered in a sadly tedious match in Palermo.

The Republic dominated from start to finish, but their final pass let them down and Egypt, who had earned a creditable draw against an admittedly disappointing Dutch side, showed little creativity.

Their passing game was simple and effective, but never threatening while the Republic's tactics, although offering the occasional scoring chance, was largely repelled by a capable defence.

Hani Ramzy is a highly accomplished sweeper who was at no stage concerned by the aerial threat of Tony Cascarino or substitute Niall Quinn.

The few chances in the match fell after the interval. Goalkeeper Ahmed Shoubeir held a crisp Kevin Sheedy volley after 49 minutes and Real Sociedad striker John Aldridge was replaced by Swindon Town midfielder Alan McLoughlin in the 64th minute.

McLoughlin's introduction sparked life into the Republic, but the Egyptian's well-marshalled defence was rarely tested.

The best chance of the match fell after 70 minutes when Ray Houghton found space to shoot from close range but, again, Shoubeir was equal to the challenge.

Four minutes later, Liverpool's attack-minded left-back Steve Staunton fired a low drive through the legs of defender Ibrahim Hassan and inches wide.

From then on, the African team, who had played with such imagination in their opening game, were content to play out time. They had mustered a mere four shots over the 90 minutes and none of them ruffled Irish goalkeeper Pat Bonner.

After the match Charlton was highly critical of Egypt's tactics. He said: "I didn't like the way the Egyptians played. I didn't like their time-wasting tactics. I didn't like the game at all. We must take a little bit of the blame ourselves because we didn't score goals, but at least we tried."

England v Egypt

June 21 – Cagliari
England (0) 1 (Wright 58)
Egypt (0) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att**: 34,959. **Ref**: Kurt Roethlisberger.

England: Shilton – Parker, Walker, Wright, Pearce – Waddle (Platt 86), McMahon, Gascoigne, Barnes – Bull, Lineker.

Egypt: Shoubeir – I Hassan, Yassein, H Ramzy, Yakan – A Ramzy, Youssef, Abed El Ghani, Abed El Hamid – H Hassan, Ahmed El Kass.

ENGLAND finished top of Group F after an unimpressive victory over stubborn Egypt who failed to qualify for the second round.

Like the Dutch and the Irish before them, England found the Africans a tough nut to crack and were indebted to a great second half goal from Mark Wright to clinch victory.

The lasting impression of Egypt as they prepare to fly back across the Mediterranean, is that they were their own worst enemies. They possess a tight defence and fluid passing game, but showed too much respect for their opponents and were punished ultimately for an over-cautious approach.

England manager Bobby Robson made two changes for the match. Steve McMahon replaced injured captain Bryan Robson and extra defender Terry Butcher was dropped to make way for striker Steve Bull.

Bull, however, like Lineker was virtually a spectator in the first period as England's midfield failed to create openings.

Egypt's game-plan was obvious. A 0-0 draw was quite adequate for them and in the pursuit of the stalemate, skipper Magdi Abdel-Ghani and full-back Ibrahim Hassan were booked for time-wasting.

Paul Gascoigne began to dominate the match either side of half-time, showing delightful close control and an ability to unlock defences. He put in one teasing cross in front of goal that neither Lineker nor Bull could touch home.

The goal came in the 59th minute after Des Walker had been felled charging into Egyptian territory.

Gascoigne orchestrated the free-kick and his exquisite chip was flicked home by Wright ahead of the lunging Shoubeir, his first international goal.

Wright's goal prompted a response from Egypt that nearly earned an equaliser. A ball was floated into the English box, Wright appeared to touch the ball with an arm and as players screamed for the penalty, Hossam Hassan planted a shot straight at Peter Shilton.

It was a poor match by any standards and was certainly in keeping with everything that had gone before in Group F.

Irish and Dutch squeeze through

This time, manager Bobby Robson chose to adopt the sweeper system (with Mark Wright of Derby County taking that role) and it paid off with full backs Paul Parker and Stuart Pearce given more freedom to attack.

England started brightly with Gary Lineker and John Barnes splitting the Dutch defence, but the normally reliable Spurs hot-shot failed to take advantage of the opening.

Parker, on one of his many breaks upfield, hit a swerving effort from 20 yards which Hans Van Breukelen palmed wide.

Holland's best opportunity in the first-half was a Johnny Van't Schip drive which Peter Shilton, making his world record-breaking 120th appearance, saved well.

England took control after the break with Paul Gascoigne the key figure. His runs were dazzling and distribution a revelation. From one stunning piece of trickery which sold two defenders, he squared across the face of the goal, but Barnes failed to get a touch.

Lineker had a goal disallowed after 52 minutes when he handled the ball before scoring and then substitute Steve Bull found himself free of markers but headed wide.

The Dutch threw Wim Kieft on for Hans Gillhaus but Kieft, who scored when he came on against Egypt, found the attentions of the English defence too stifling.

In the final minute, England were awarded an indirect free-kick, Pearce rifled the ball straight into the net, but Yugoslav referee Zoran Petrovic ruled that the ball had not touched another player.

Wim Kieft puts Holland ahead against Egypt.

Niall Quinn's goal gave Ireland a deserved point.

Rep of Ireland v Holland

June 21 – Palermo
Rep. of Ireland (0) 1 (Quinn 71)
Holland (1) 1 (Gullit 10)
HT: 0-1. **Att**: 33,288. **Ref**: Michel Vautrot.

Rep. of Ireland: Bonner – Morris, McCarthy, Moran, Staunton – Houghton, McGrath, Townsend, Sheedy (Whelan 61) – Quinn, Aldridge (Cascarino 61).

Holland: Van Breukelen – Van Aerle, Rijkaard, R Koeman, Van Tiggelen – Witschge (Fraeser 59), Wouters, Gullit, Kieft (van Loen) – van Basten, Gillhaus.

AS THE various goals on this last night went in, both here and in Cagliari, so the shape of the second round of the finals twisted and turned.

When Gullit shot the Dutch ahead so Austria and Scotland were into the lottery of the draw. Then England scored against Egypt in Cagliari. When the Irish equalised against Holland, so England (!) went top of the group and the Irish and Dutch were left in the draw to sort out second and third places. For the first half this looked much more like the old Gullit. He and Van Basten and Rijkaard had flown out their personal physio, Ted Troost, from Amsterdam, with the tacit blessing of coach Beenhakker. Whatever Troost did, it certainly appeared to have an effect. Gullit looked a yard quicker and he scored a typical goal in the 10th minute, with an angled drive from the right. Shortly afterwards Ireland had a headed goal from Houghton disallowed for offside. But there was enough 'air' in the Dutch defence to keep even this defence-based Irish side hoping. Gullit shot just wide after 50 minutes then, at the other end, Sheedy fired over the top when he had Aldridge unmarked in the centre. Holland looked like extending their lead at any time as the Irish, belatedly in this group, poured forward. Yet it was the Irish who scored. Bonner belted a long kick downfield, Van-Aerle's backpass surprised Van Breukelen, who dived left and could not hold it. Quinn, professionally following up, stabbed the loose ball home.

Realising that safety was virtually theirs, both teams gently played out time after that. England, north in Cagliari, did not let them down.

TREVOR BROOKING recalls his World Cup shocks and suprises . . .

GERMANS BROUGHT ITALIA 90 TO LIFE!

THE 1990 World Cup first provided a number of surprises as several of the stronger countries returned home earlier than they had expected.

In the first phase Sweden, Russia, Austria and Scotland failed to make the last sixteen with the Scandinavians, who had qualified ahead of England, not even gaining a point. Then when the knockout stage got underway, Brazil, Holland, Belgium and Spain were all missing from the quarter-final line up.

It meant we also lost some outstanding players who had contributed much to the tournament. Brazil's defeat by Argentina and Spain's by Yugoslavia were both classic examples of how a team can be easily punished for missing chances. Alemao and Valdo helped Brazil dominate for much of the match but Maradona suddenly reminded us of his Mexico form from four years ago, and Caniggia gratefully accepted the opportunity.

Spain enjoyed similar possession against Yugoslavia and with Martin Vazquez and Michel controlling midfield, victory appeared well within their grasp. Instead another slumbering star rose to the surface as Stojkovic scored two wonderful goals, the last a delightfully curled free-kick in extra time.

Exciting

Belgium's defeat by England was one of the most exciting matches of the tournament and Scifo was very unlucky to finish on the losing side after a great individual performance. He had an excellent tournament, as did the experienced Ceulemans and it needed an exceptional volley by David Platt to snatch a dramatic last minute victory.

Another team to produce some fine individuals were Romania, who badly missed the dribbling skills of the suspended Lacatus when losing out to the Republic of Ireland in a penalty shoot-out. Hagi also illustrated how dangerous he is and he should delight the Real Madrid crowd next season.

So the quarter-final line-up included Cameroon, Eire, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia who had all upset the tipsters with fine displays. Cameroon, and of course, Costa Rica and Egypt, emphasised that the days of the odd easy match are gone forever, as the smaller nations continue to improve their technique and tactical awareness. Cameroon's 38-year-old Roger Milla became one of the characters of the World Cup as his second-half appearances as substitute kept producing not only goals, but some equally nifty movements over by the corner flag, as he celebrated them.

Italy and West Germany stood out in the earlier games as two giants heading for a collison course. Italy's tight defensive play sprang to life with the pairing of Schillaci and Baggio who complemented each other superbly.

Franz Beckenbauer had warned everyone he had his strongest squad since taking charge and it was their victory over Holland that brought the tournament to life. The Inter Milan trio of Brehme, Matthaus and Klinsmann played magnificently against their AC Milan counterparts for the Dutch and their clinical shooting accuracy set them apart from most of the other sides.

Finally, congratulations to England and Eire for creating such tremendous interest as they marched into the latter stages of the World Cup. Jack Charlton's team became the side no one seemed keen to meet as their style and effort disrupted the rhythm of the opposition. His reign as manager is as memorable as any and it was terrific to see the spirit and friendliness generated by their supporters wherever they went.

Bobby Robson seemed determined to finish his eight year spell as manager on a high note, and the belated introduction of the sweeper system into our national team must surely be here to stay. Des Walker confirmed his status as a top class defensive marker, while Mark Wright illustrated his improvement on the international stage. Another player who should have a prominent England career ahead of him is Paul Gascoigne, who emerged as an inventive and tireless provider in midfield.

What the World Cup did teach us and youngsters in particular is that there is no substitute for good passing skills and technique, and that unexpected flair still remains the priceless commodity to win matches.

Scifo was unlucky to be a loser.

West Germany stars Buchwald and Brehme celebrate victory over Holland.

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TACTICS, tactics. Who can make sense of them? Most of all when they are England's.

For eight long years, Bobby Robson sturdily assured us that sweeper systems were alien to the English game; and I was one of those who believed him.

The more so as the Italians themselves were actually giving up on them and coming over to the four in line, 'pressing', strategy made so popular by Arrigo Sacchi at Milan. Which looks just fine until you have another four in line pressing team against you.

There should be some boring old battles between Milan and Juventus next season, when Gigi Maifredi, another four-in-line man, has taken over at Juventus.

Suddenly in the game at Cagliari against Holland, Bobby Robson plunged England into a sweeper system they had never used under his aegis. His explanation, when I asked him about it at the Press Conference after the match, was that he expected Holland to use two strikers through the middle, in Kieft and Van Basten.

In the event, he admitted, Holland didn't, they deployed the Aberdeen man, Gillhaus, way out on the left wing, which meant that the thoroughly left-footed Terry Butcher was obliged to turn into a makeshift right back.

Lone Ranger

Then came the Belgian game. Again, with all deference to Bobby Robson, I did not see two Belgian strikers, Ceulemans and De Gryse, but only the latter; a lone ranger largely frustrated.

Then came the extraordinary Cameroon game when, as one heard Bobby Robson admit the next day in Salerno at a sunlit Press Conference on the hotel terrace, "The flat back-four saved us."

In that case, I asked him, why should it be that he had embraced a sweeper defence in the first place?

His answer was largely the same; that it had worked in the two games when it was previously used, and even to some extent in the Cameroon match, until the African team cut through the middle and scored the second goal.

Then, he emphasised, rather than do what most sweeper teams do in such circumstances, take off a forward, he had taken off one of his most reliable players, Terry Butcher, a success in the World Cup (these are Bobby Robson's words) and actually put on a forward, in Trevor Steven.

Who, although Mark Wright's injury had condemned him to operate as a right-back, had got forward to put over the splendid cross which either Lineker or Platt might so easily have exploited.

But there were other stories in the wind, notably one that it was the England players themselves who really wanted a sweeper plan, and that they wanted it for quite different reasons. Their idea was that it would liberate the full backs to go forward into attack and thereby allow Chris Waddle to cut into the middle.

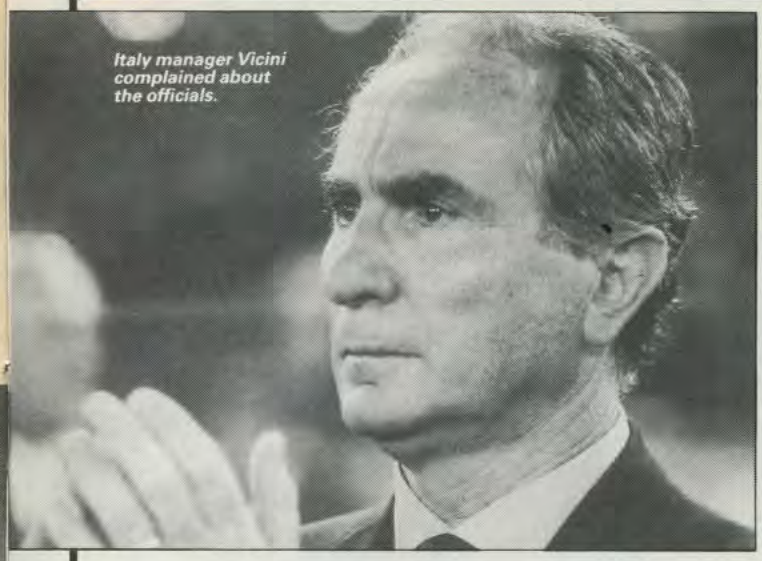
Two quite irreconcilable desires, one Robson's, the other, supposedly, that of his team. But in the event, the consequence was chaos.

Floundered

Against Cameroon, when there really were two strikers at least through the middle throughout the game, and one of them was the marvellous Roger Milla, plus a right winger in Makanaky when he moved out there in the second half, England's defence simply floundered.

Time and again Peter Shilton had to come to their rescue, as in the good old, bad old days, when some-one had blundered; now Wright, now Des Walker, now Butcher, all over the place, and never a sweeper to cover any of them.

There were those who felt, with some reason, that the situation was created essentially because there was no midfield 'filter,' that the midfield players simply did not pick up and intercept the attackers steaming through from the Cameroon midfield.



Italy manager Vicini complained about the officials.

Red card for refs

OF World Cup refereeing, you will have read more than enough by now, but there were some strange episodes.

I was astounded to hear Bobby Robson, the day after the Cameroon game, say how satisfied he was with the unutterable Uruguayan turned Mexican, Codesal.

Gary Lineker, sitting nearby, said nothing, though he had been both kicked and punched during the game, with little or no protection.

The previous night, in Rome, Vicini had leaped off the bench bitterly to rebuke a linesman who had flagged offside what he deemed a perfectly good goal by Schillaci. Bahaviour which could have earned the manager of Italy a bright red card.

Amazingly, he compounded this by going up to complain to a fourth official, the Brazilian Wright, who hadn't given Italy a penalty in their opening game against Austria.

And as if this were not enough, he then, in the Press Conference, replied to a question about his assault on the linesman that 'certain decisions were inadmissible'.

No doubt Josef Venglos felt the same when Griga headed a perfectly good goal for the Czechs against Italy, which was disallowed by a nitwit linesman for a non-existent offside. But he did not leap off the bench to remonstrate. Pressure, too much pressure, Azeglio.

Cruel gutter press

THE dehumanised behaviour of certain elements of our tabloid Press in Cagliari have been well or ill enough chronicled by now. Rushing up to Catholic girls of good family, looking for poor, persecuted 'hostess' Isabella, and demanding whether they had slept with England players, was behaviour reminiscent of The Front Page, all those years ago in America.

The only journalist to come well out of it all was the noble Brian McNally from Newcastle who locked Isabella away from her persecutors, and was threatened for his pains that he would be reported to the National Union of Journalists of which, he replied, he was an official.

Debased gutter journalism of this sort is not only viciously cruel to those on whom it is practised, but ultimately very dangerous to investigative journalism of a more serious sort.

Britain is full of nasty little pressure groups longing to put the boot into a free Press. Indeed, with recent Government legislation, they have to a significant extent succeeded, so far as the public will is concerned.

Absurd

But almost as tawdry was the Daily Mirror's splashing of an absurdly simplistic farrago, apparently the spin off of a TV interview Barnes unwisely gave, in which a Cambridge psychologist equated the 'remote' Bobby Robson with Barnes's mother, who apparently used to beat him when he was a child, for misbehaviour.

Nice kind jolly sensitive Kenny Dalglish (who?) was apparently the Good Father – or Mother? – full of an infinite understanding. But for Graham Taylor, supposedly an authoritarian and Barnes' mentor at Watford, where he began, Barnes would never be able to play.

Which wholly overlooked the fact that whatever Taylor may or may not be, Barnes built his career and played some of his finest football under the aegis of Graham Taylor at Watford.

Silly, shallow, confused stuff which seemed to cast Bobby Robson as a kind of latter day Norman Bates. The psychologist, we were told in terms of awe, was a CAMBRIDGE man. So much the better for Oxford!

Barnes was one of England's few disappointments.

De Agostini switched from midfield to left-back to combat the Irish.

A good point, but that too emphasises that you cannot just decide, in the thick of a major international competition, that you are going to deploy a system you have never put into practice in the past. Either Bobby Robson should have embraced it long since, or he should surely have continued to set his face against it.

Yet there was many another tactical oddity in the World Cup, not least when the Italians met the Irish. Everybody seemed to whip themselves into a froth of fear when it came to playing Ireland, though the Irish hardly ever scored a goal; and when they did it had to be helped by a mistake.

Screaming

Thus the Egyptian team manager, El Gohari, clearly woke up screaming in the night with leprechauns dancing on his pillow. He had, he said, watched tape after tape of the Irish games, regarded them as among the most dangerous possible opponents, and made tactical dispositions accordingly. Which meant shutting up shop in a way that induced even Jackie Charlton, surely the very king of anti-football, to pour out the vials of his wrath upon the Egyptians.

But then Jackie was doing a great deal of pouring over all sorts of heads as the competition went on. Jackie: Press Conferences are part of the JOB.

Back to Italy v Ireland. For some crazily complex reason, Azeglio Vicini, the Italian manager, decided he would drastically alter his defensive line up.

Where Giuseppe Bergomi, who had admittedly started life as a right back, and won his spurs there in the 1982 World Cup Finals as an 18-year-old had been acting all through as a central marker, he now became a right-back again, to look after Kevin Sheedy.

Who now moved into the middle as a marker? Why, none other than Paolo Maldini, known and loved by us all as an attacking left-back. Which in turn allowed the Juventus man, De Agostini, to act as ... an attacking left-back, instead of as a left sided midfield man. If you can work that one out, you're good, as Croucho Marx once said.

My own mind went back to the involuted goings-on in Stuttgart in 1974 when Valcareggi, then the much-put-upon Italian manager, sent none other than that future World Cup winner, Enzo Bearzot, to spy out Argentina. It appeared that Bearzot, with an uncharacteristic aberration, reported that little René Houseman, a classical quick winger, was operating in midfield.

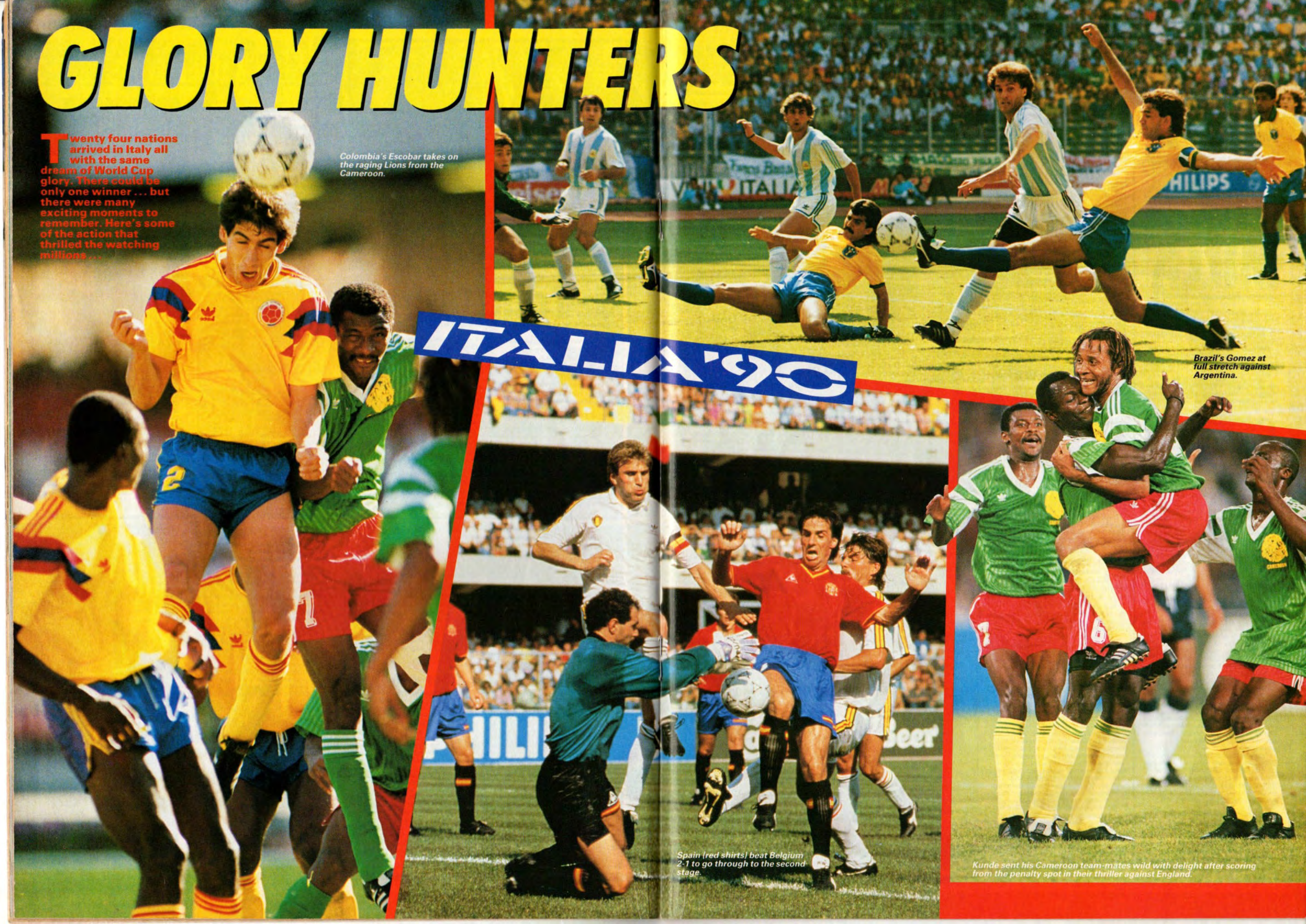
Inevitably the Italians put a midfield man on him, in the shape of Fabio Capello, remembered, inter alia, as the man whose easily taken goal enabled Italy to beat England in London for the very first time the previous year.

But what happened in Stuttgart was that for 20 torrid minutes, Capello was transformed into a right-back. He was run ragged, Houseman set up a goal, and not until the rugged Romeo Benetti – a smiling presence when I met him in Naples – dropped back to fill his position was the storm calmed. The end of it was that Italy managed to score the equaliser.

Jackie Charlton ... triumphant in defeat.

GLORY HUNTERS

Twenty four nations arrived in Italy all with the same dream of World Cup glory. There could be only one winner ... but there were many exciting moments to remember. Here's some of the action that thrilled the watching millions ...



Colombia's Escobar takes on the raging Lions from the Cameroon.

Brazil's Gomez at full stretch against Argentina.

Spain (red shirts) beat Belgium 2-1 to go through to the second stage.

Kunde sent his Cameroon team-mates wild with delight after scoring from the penalty spot in their thriller against England.

ITALIA'90 SECOND ROUND

Cameroon v Colombia

KILLER MILLA

June 23 – Naples
Cameroon 2 (Milla 106 and 108)
Colombia 1 (Redin 116)
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 0-0. **Att:** 50,026. **Ref:** Lanese (It).

Cameroon: N'kono – Tataw, Onana Ndip, Edwelle – Maboang, Kana Biyik, Mbouh, Mfede (Milla 54) – Omam Biyik, Makanaky (Djonkep 69).

Colombia: Higuita – Herrera, Perea, Escobar, Gildardo Gomez – Ivarez, Fajardo (Iguaran 62), Valderrama, Rincon, Gabriel Gomez (Redin 79) – Estrada.

CAMEROON became the first African nation to reach the quarter-finals of the World Cup, as one of these finals' great characters triumphed, devastatingly, over another.

Two goals from 38-year-old centre-forward Roger Milla meant yet another surprise out of Africa and the end of the exotic campaign of Colombia goalkeeper Rene Higuita.

Cameroon were then left to rest for three days until until England faced Belgium in Bologna the following Tuesday to discover the identity of their quarter-final opponents. Milla, who had been playing his football for St Pierroise in the Reunion Islands near Madagascar, thus became (temporarily) the tournament's joint top scorer with four goals.

His first, one minute into the second half of extra time, was a comparatively orthodox effort which sent Milla down to the corner flag for his now-customary celebration dance.

It was his second goal which proved the coup de grace, as much for the manner of its execution as anything else. Colombia had shown, against West Germany earlier in the week, their powers of last-ditch recovery.

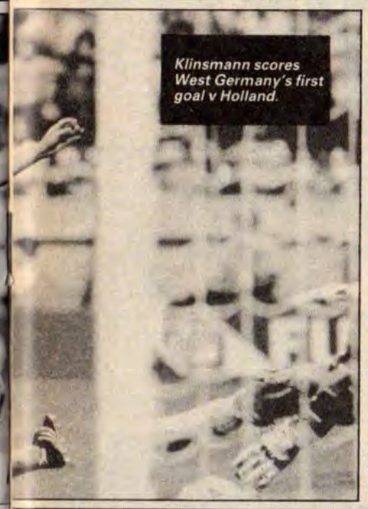
Higuita tried to lead the charge, dribbling upfield, 40 yards from goal. Too far, too late. Milla pounced, nipped the ball between Higuita's legs then strode past him to slide home his second goal with ten minutes remaining. Higuita lay, prone, mortified at the error of his ways. His team-mates did their best to save him. Bernardo Redin pulled one goal back, Leonel Alvarez shot against the stanchion. Then they ran out of time.

The first 90 minutes had produced little from two tired teams – apart from one drive from Colombia's Freddy Rincon which thumped against the Cameroon bar just on half-time. The explosion of goals and delight had to wait until that dramatic second half of extra time.

At the final whistle Higuita turned, walked across his penalty area, stepped behind his goal and was the first to disappear down into the players' tunnel. The ground, as he had probably been wishing for the previous ten minutes, had swallowed him up.

Roger Milla celebrates after scoring against Colombia.

SUPER SHOW MARRED BY RIJKAARD SHAME



Klinsmann scores West Germany's first goal v Holland.

W. Germany v Holland

June 24 – Milan
West Germany 2 (Klinsmann 50, Brehme 84)
Holland 1 (R Koeman 88pen)
HT: 0-0. Att: 74,559. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)

W Germany: Illgner – Reuter, Kohler, Augenthaler, Buchwald – Berthold, Littbarski, Matthaus, Brehme – Voller, Klinsmann (Riedle 78).

Holland: Van Breukelen – Van Aerle (Kieft 66), R Koeman, Rijkaard, Van Tiggelen – Van't Schip, Winter, Wouters, Witschge (Gillhaus 79) – Gullit, Van Basten.

Sent off: Voller and Rijkaard, both 21min.

A REAL World Cup block-buster, with West Germany deserving a magnificent victory after a fast, skilful and ferocious contest.

A contest which saw the double expulsion of Rijkaard and Voller after only 21 minutes but which also saw the most magnificent performance from West German forward Jurgen Klinsmann.

No doubt: he supplied one of the most outstanding individual displays of any modern World Cup. That he scored the all-important first German goal was not merely his prize, but his right.

Holland were, ultimately, beaten by the better team. Ruud Gullit did all he could, in all phases of the game. But, despite his progress, he was still clearly a couple of games from match fitness.

Far more disappointing was Marco Van Basten, whose contribution to these finals had been disastrously weak. Van Basten even turned up among the queue of Dutch players employed, almost by rota it seemed, to trip Lothar Matthaus in full flight.

Matthaus had a furious exchange at the final whistle with referee Loustau – clearly asking why he had been booked for an innocuous play-on at a free kick while only Wouters out of all the Dutchmen who ruthlessly chopped him down was shown the yellow card.

The influences of Matthaus and Klinsmann – and the admirable Andy Brehme – were all the more fascinating given the coincidental scenario in San Siro.

This was not only international, this was domestic: Inter's three West Germans against Milan's three Dutchmen, wrapped up in their mutual home stadium and topped off with the traditionally intense rivalry between the nations.

The game had been running 20 compelling minutes when Rijkaard went straight through Voller without bothering about the ball. Referee Loustau correctly yellow-carded Rijkaard. He then mouthed various comments at Voller, who was in turn booked for complaining to the referee.

When Van Breukelen gathered the ensuing free kick Voller jumped at him, provoking the double furious attentions of Van Breukelen and Rijkaard. Klinsmann was just too late to save either man.

Loustau showed Voller the red card and sent Rijkaard off to join him in the dressing rooms as Rijkaard spat full into Voller's hair. It was an appalling display by Rijkaard. His first yellow card had already assured his absence from the quarter-final, if Holland were to qualify. His subsequent 'behaviour' deserved further punishment.

Rijkaard had been in trouble after only three minutes when the referee told him to tuck his shirt in. After three matches in the finals Rijkaard could hardly claim not to know the rules. But that was soon forgotten in the welter of action.

West Germany conceded a corner as Winter got on to the end of a cross from Gullit. Then the Ajax midfielder headed over from close range. In the first German attack of consequence, after 11 minutes, Littbarski – playing for the injured Hassler – fired over the bar.

After that came the Voller/Rijkaard incident and the expulsions – which damaged Holland more than West Germany since an important cog in their creative mechanism was removed.

Before half-time Wouters and Gullit shot wide for Holland and Gullit was narrowly off-target with a header.

Then, after a back pass from Wouters was intercepted by Littbarski, Van Breukelen made a superb diving save from Buchwald's ensuing volley.

Immediately after the interval Van Breukelen was in brilliant action again, this time saving a Matthaus header to a well-judged chip from Klinsmann.

One minute later, disaster for the Dutch. Buchwald broke clear down the left, crossed to the near post before Winter could reach him, and celebrated as Klinsmann glanced the ball across Van Breukelen and inside the far post.

Klinsmann deserved a second goal in the 76th minute after chasing down a long cross field pass from Brehme and thrashing his shot against a post.

Klinsmann received an ovation when he staggered from the pitch to be substituted by Riedle.

In the dying minutes Ronald Koeman collected a Dutch consolation from the penalty spot after a controversial decision that Kohler had tripped Van Basten.

BRAZILIANS BLOW IT

Brazil v Argentina

June 24 – Turin
Brazil 0
Argentina 1 (Caniggia 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fr)

Brazil: Taffarel – Jorginho, Ricardo Gomes, Mauro Galvao (Renato 84), Branco – Alemao (Silas 84), Dunga, Ricardo Gomes, Valdo – Careca, Muller.

Argentina: Goycochea – Monzon, Simon, Ruggeri – Basualdo, Troglio (Calderon 62), Burruchaga, Giusti, Olarticoechea – Caniggia, Maradona.

Sent off: Ricardo Gomes, 82 min.

AN ENORMOUS hole is always left in the World Cup finals when Brazil go home. This World Cup was no different to any other.

Just as in 1982 and 1986 so the Brazilians went home feeling they had reaped more bad luck to pay them out for the glory years.

The ripples of defeat would inevitably carry on for weeks back home as coach Sebastiao Lazaroni's critics took apart his tactical approach, his technical approach, his squad selections and his team selections.

No nation likes to see its team beaten, the Brazilians perhaps least of all. Lazaroni, fortunately, already had a job in Italy to stay on for, with Fiorentina. After a year or so there he will be able to go home and the bitterness will have died down.

Indeed, in a year or two's time, when Brazil are once again going through the regular managerial waltz, then his name will be suggested for a comeback. That is in the future. For now, Lazaroni is the easy scapegoat.

But the truth of this defeat, as Lazaroni himself stated quite plainly, was that Brazil should have had the match sewn up after 20 minutes and had only themselves to blame for missing a string of early chances.

Only one minute had gone when Careca surged through the Argentine defence and Goycochea saved, in extremis, for a corner. Then Muller shot over the bar, Dunga headed against a post and it was not until the 25th minute that Troglio managed Argentina's first shot.

Monzon and Giusti were both shown the yellow card as Argentina battled to hold the yellow tide at bay. But, as half-time approached without a Brazilian goal, so Argentina began to edge forward with a little more daring.

Ricardo Rocha, pushed forward out of defence into the Brazilian midfield, was himself shown a yellow card for a foul on Troglio. Then Ruggeri headed wide in an Argentine raid shortly before the interval.

Brazil began the second half in much the same way as the first. A Careca cross-shot was tipped against the post by Goycochea who then made a brilliant save from a drive by Alemao out on the right. Careca was just over the top with a glancing header to a Muller cross but, the longer the match went on, the more an Argentine upset appeared on the cards.

Burruchaga had a shot turned round a post by the diving Tafferel. And then, with Brazil extended and out of shape, Maradona darted at the centre of their defence and released a perfectly-weighted right-foot pass to Caniggia.

The Verona man pulled the ball wide across Taffarel with his right foot and stabbed it into the net with his left. Made by a genius, taken by a master. Argentina were through to the quarter- finals on a win and a lot of prayers. Brazil's stunned fans slumped to their seats as the final whistle sounded.

A banner proclaiming: "We're only here for the Brazilians girls," fluttered to the ground. Brazil, their enchanting torcida and embattled players and coaches, will have to wait at least another four years...

Caniggia delivers Brazil their shock World Cup exit.

CZECHS RUN RIOT

Czechoslovakia v Costa Rica

June 23 – Bari
Czechoslovakia 4 (Skuhravy 11, 62, 82, Kubik 77)
Costa Rica 1 (Gonzalez 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000 (tickets 47,673). **Ref:** Kirschen (EG).

Czechoslovakia: Stejskal – Hasek, Kocian, Straka, Kadlec – Moravcik, Chovanec, Kubik, Bielik – Skuhravy, Knoflicek.

Costa Rica: Barrantes – Chavarria (Guimaraes 66), Flores, Montero, Chavez – Cayasso, Obando (Medford 46), Ramirez, Gonzalez – Marchena, C Jara.

THE END of Costa Rica's beautiful adventure. In their three group games they had played for the draws and capitalised on their opponents' failings and failures.

But this was one degree removed from all that – a match against far superior opposition than Scotland and Sweden. The Czechoslovaks had intelligence and vision in midfield and movement in attack. They had welded themselves into a useful team unit with cohesion and the confidence born of their first-round victories over the United States and Austria.

Nor did they let the defeat by Italy worry them. After all, they had entered that match certain of qualification, without Kubik and with Chovanec short of fitness.

Now, the Czechs were not only at full strength but fully committed. Above all they troubled the Costa Rica defence with simple, but effective, tactics. One, very simple, was using a left-footed player, Moravcik, wide on the right. He was given more licence to attack than in the Czechoslovaks' previous games, and used that freedom to immediate effect.

Only 11 minutes had gone when he turned, screwed in a left-foot cross from the right and saw Skuhravy head in.

Costa Rica had no option now but to look for the attacking pass. They left gaps at the back which exposed reserve keeper Barrantes (Coneja was injured) and were lucky to reach half-time only one goal down.

Knoflicek was foiled by a 'hidden' nudge in the back from Montero as he ran through in the 29th minute, Skuhravy had a 'goal' disallowed in the 39th minute for pulling back Flores, then Moravcik saw a left-foot drive well saved for a corner by the flying Barrantes. Costa Rica managed one chance before the interval, when Stejskal rushed from his line to save at the feet of Marchena. But nine minutes into the second half Marchena's free kick was headed home for an equaliser by Gonzalez.

Costa Rica suddenly saw the possibility of another miracle. No matter that Moravcik had struck the bar with a 49th-minute drive. Suddenly they believed in themselves, threw themselves forward ... and paid the price.

Skuhravy put Czechoslovakia back in front after a move which appeared to owe everything to head-tennis practice. Then Kubik curled in No 3 from a free kick after Marchena was booked for a body-check on Hasek. With eight minutes' remaining, Costa Rica were caught out by the same simple move which had fooled their fellow CONCACAF qualifiers from the United States: a corner on the right was chipped to the near post by Chovanec and up popped Skuhravy to head home. That was his hat-trick: it also made his agreement that morning, to sign for Genoa, appear excellent business for the Italian club.

Costa Rica had been well beaten. But they had played to the very limits of their talent and ability – which was more than a number of much more highly-vaunted teams could say.

Skuhravy heads the first of his hat-trick in Bari.

ITALIA'90 SECOND ROUND

SCHILLACI SHOWS THE WAY

Italy v Uruguay

June 25 – Rome
Italy 2 (Schillaci 65, Serena 82)
Uruguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 73,303. **Ref:** Courtney (Eng).

Italy: Zenga – Bergomi, Baresi, Ferri, Maldini – De Napoli, Berti (Serena 52), Giannini, De Agostini – Baggio (Vierchowod 79), Schillaci.

Uruguay: Alvez – Saldana, Gutierrez, De Leon, Dominguez – Fonseca, Ostolaza (Alzamendi 79), Perdomo, Pereira – Francescoli, Aguilera (Sosa 55).

COMFORTABLE success for Italy. Uruguay were not even good enough to become angry.

It was a spineless performance by the South Americans. Manager Oscar Washington Tabarez had wanted to change their international image. The next challenge, for a successor since there is no possibility of Tabarez hanging onto the job, is to regain the spirit and pride without reintroducing the cynicism. Italy began with a problem. Media hype over the success of the Baggio/Schillaci partnership against Czechoslovakia had raised far too many expectations. Manager Vicini decided that Vialli was fit enough to sit on the substitutes' bench along with Ancelotti, who was disappointed not to be playing. But, as Vicini later said: "This is a 13-man game. No one player can ever be any more important than any other. At the end of the day I take the responsibility so it is I who makes the decisions."

Italy might have gone ahead after 15 seconds. Baggio contributed a cross-shot from the right and Schillaci, falling, volleyed just wide. That was the closest they came in the first half. As for Uruguay, so preoccupied were they with defence that they made few raids of their own. As an infestation of flies descended on the press box and VIP seats, so Cagliari-bound Fonseca saw a shot saved at the near post by Zenga.

Uruguay goalkeeper Alvez was kept far busier in the second half once Vicini had replaced Berti – booked a for a trip on Francescoli – with Serena. The Inter striker was celebrating his 30th birthday. He had already been presented with a portable television by the federation. But his achievements out on the pitch will stay with him much longer. Italy, with three forwards, began stretching the Uruguayan defence. Schillaci burst through to force one save from Alvez. Then the Uruguay keeper made a superb save from a drive by De Agostini (deputising for the inured Donadoni) after a Giannini free kick. The writing was on the South American wall. After 65 minutes Serena's touch gave Schillaci just enough time to lift a drive over the head of Alvez for Italy's opening goal. Then, with ten minutes remaining, Serena headed home a second Italian goal after a Giannini free kick on the right. Inbetween Zenga had made two sharp saves from Perdomo, the best of the Uruguayans. Italy's heroes were home and dry. But the more extreme of their fans duly got wet as they jumped in celebration into the fountains of the Piazza del Popolo.

Italy's new hero Schillaci scores against Uruguay.

O'LEARY WINS SHOOT-OUT

Rep of Ireland v Romania

June 25 – Genoa
Rep Ireland 0
Romania 0
Att: 31,818. **Ref:** Wright (Brz).
Rep Ireland 5-4 on penalties after extra time.
Penalties (Romania first): Hagi 1-0, Sheedy 1-1; Lupu 2-1, Houghton 2-2; Rotariu 3-2, Townsend 3-3; Lupescu 4-3, Cascarino 4-4; Timofte saved, O'Leary 4-5.

Rep Ireland: Bonner – Morris, McCarthy, Moran, Staunton (O'Leary 93) – Houghton, Townsend, McGrath, Sheedy – Aldridge (Cascarino 22), Quinn.

Romania: Lung – Rednic, Andone, G Popesca, Klein – Lupescu, Sabau (Timofte 97), Hagi, Rotariu – Raducioiu (Lupu 73), Balint.

THE IRISH Republic had scored only two goals in four games yet here they were, celebrating a place in the quarter-finals of the World Cup.

The drama against Romania continued right through the penalty shoot-out. But even here the Irish also looked more likely to win. Hero goalkeeper Paddy Bonner almost always went the right way for the Romanian kicks and the fatal last shot, from young Timofte, was so clearly sign-posted that he had missed almost before he began his two-step walk-up.

Arsenal's David O'Leary was left to take the decisive last kick. By taking a run, almost straight, he kept Lung guessing until it was too late.

The Irish had achieved extraordinary progress. Pretty it was most certainly not. But you could not but help admire the tactical discipline and commitment. McCarthy never put a foot wrong in the middle of defence and Paul McGrath maintained his enormous presence in midfield. Romania boasted a world talent in Gheorghe Hagi. But they – and he – badly missed the attacking support of Marius Lacatus, under suspension. Also, there were whispers that Hagi's Greek/Hungarian background did not make him a particularly popular figure with the rest of the squad.

The first opening fell to Romania after three minutes, but Sabau shot wide. At the other end Lung saved low from Townsend.

Aldridge was booked for tripping Hagi but the Irish centre-forward paid an even heavier price. He was injured in the collision and had to be substituted. Yet the first half ended with the Irish on top. Sheedy saw a close-range hook saved one-handed by Lung after a Cascarino flick. Then Quinn headed just wide from a right-wing cross.

Cascarino twice threatened Lung in the early stages of the second half, while Hagi – with a couple of long-range drives which flew too high – mounted a one-man reply.

In the 70th minute the Romanian star forced a fine one-handed save from Bonner before both teams closed up in defence and waited for extra time. Hagi had a shot tipped for a corner by the diving Lung. Then Houghton headed just over the bar at the other end.

Pat Bonner saves Timofte's spot-kick.

Command

Fatigue and frustration brought yellow cards for McGrath, Hagi and Timofte in the second half of extra time before referee Wright – who had held superb command of the match – blew the final blast which meant this would be the only penalty shoot-out of the second round.

In the penalties sequence Hagi and Sheedy made fiercely confident starts for Romania and Ireland. But – apart from one occasion – Bonner always looked more likely to save the day, and so it proved.

TRIUMPH FOR DEADLY DRAGAN

Spain v Yugoslavia

June 26 – Verona
Spain 1 (Salinas 83)
Yugoslavia 2 (Stojkovic 77, 92)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,500. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (WG).

Spain: Zubizarreta – Chendo, Sanchis, Andrinua (Jimenez 49), Gorriz – Michel, Roberto, Martin Vazquez, Villaroya – Salinas, Butragueno (Rafa Paz 79).

Yugoslavia: Ivkovic – Hadzibegic, Jozic, Spasic – Stojkovic, Sabanadzovic, Katanec (Vulic 79), Susic, Brnovic – Pancev (Savicevic 55), Vujovic.

SPAIN manager Luis Suarez had never had the full support of players or media and was probably not too surprised at the way Spain's campaign ended.

For much of the match they looked the better team, twice they were denied by the posts and frequently only the best of luck saved Ivkokic in the Yugoslav goal. But, luck Belgium and Brazil, Suarez had to admit that teams which do not put the ball in the net will never win their matches. For Yugoslavia, creeping back into the game the way they beat Colombia in the first round, this was a triumph and confirmation for midfield star Dragan Stojkovic. He has been criticised as lazy and inconsistent. But, just when it mattered, he came through with the two superb goals which lifted Yugoslavia into the quarter-finals for the first time in 16 years.

Spain had slightly the better of the first half. After only eight minutes Martin Vazquez saw a shot parried by Ivkovic only for Butragueno to shoot over the bar. At the other end Zubizarreta made a diving save from Pancev after Stojkovic slid a first, threatening pass through the Spanish defence. Martin Vazquez had been running the first half for Spain and he nearly scored early in the second, beating two defenders beautifully on the left. His shot, however, bounced wide of Ivkovic's right-hand post. Butragueno, who had a luckless World Cup, headed against a post after a Villaroya cross. But, just when Spain appeared bound to score, Yugoslavia snatched the lead instead. Vujovic turned Sanchis on the left, Katanec flicked back the cross and Stojkovic – resisting the temptation to let fly with a snap-volley – coolly brought the ball under control before side-stepping a defender and slotting his shot past Zubizarreta. Spain roared back onto the attack. Salinas demanded – in vain – a penalty after an apparent trip by Vulic. But one minute later he was celebrating after chasing into the net a cross-shot from Martin Vazquez.

Extra time had barely begun before Yugoslavia were back ahead. A foul by Roberto in front of the penalty box earned the Barcelona midfielder a yellow card. But, what was worse for Spain, it gave Stojkovic the opportunity to curl a free kick around the wall and down inside Zubizarreta's left-hand post. Spain, intelligently, kept playing their way forward down the wings, trying to open up the Slav defence. But the Slavs played the holding game perfectly – Savicevic dribbling right round the pitch to hold possession and eke out time. He might even have scored, but Zubizarreta made a diving save in the 112th minute. Eight minutes later Yugoslavia were celebrating a famous victory – and thinking ahead to Maradona and Co.

Above: Stojkovic beats the Spanish defence for the first of his two goals.

PLATT SPECIAL BREAKS DEADLOCK

England v Belgium

June 26 – Bologna
England 1 (Platt 119)
Belgium 0
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 0-0. **Att:** 34,520. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)
After extra time

England: Shilton – Parker, Walker, Wright, Butcher, Pearce – Waddle, Gascoigne, McMahon (Platt 71) – Barnes (Bull 73), Lineker.

Belgium: Preud'homme – Gerets, Grun, Demol, De Wolf – Clijsters, Degrijse, Van der Elst, Scifo, Versavel (Vervoort 107) Dewzijse (Claesen 64), Ceulemans.

* During the finals England were granted special permission to replace injured goalkeeper David Seaman with Dave Beasant (Chelsea).

ONE OF the most famous victories in England footballing history.

Whatever would happen later, this match would be talked about for years. It was a reminder that football is not solely about technique and skill. It is also about guts and will to win. It is not a perfect science. That is why results are not easily predictable. Belgium played the better pure football; but England scored the all-important goal. Like Argentina against Brazil, they hung in to the end and were duly rewarded with David Platt's superbly-taken winning goal in the last minute of extra time.

The match began with a tantalising prize at stake. Because Argentina and Holland had, in effect, failed to deliver the goods in their group games, a huge hole had been opened up the bottom of the draw. The winners of this match knew that a match against Cameroon would be their quarter-final and that a place in the semi-finals should not be beyond their reach. Belgium had looked far more impressive in the first round. But England had looked at their best against Holland, in a match when they had been able to start playing some of their football. The Belgians played their game from the back but they would give England room to play as well and the teams appeared well balanced.

Belgium took the first phase of the game on points. After only two minutes a Versavel cross-shot had Shilton in trouble and Wright pushed the loose ball behind for a corner. England's passing was letting them down and when Wright missed a tackle in the 14th minute England had a lucky escape as Ceulemans's shot thwacked against Shilton's right-hand post. Then De Wolf chipped a pass over Parker's head and referee Mikkelsen rejected penalty claims after Versavel tumbled headlong over Butcher's heel.

Gerets was a rock at the back and Scifo delightful in midfield. But as the half drew on, so England forged a way back into contention. Pearce headed onto the roof of the net from a cross by Gascoigne after a free kick for a trip on Waddle. Then Pearce angled in a cross from the left which Demol missed. Barnes seized control in the centre of attack but, almost as if surprised by the opportunity, shot tamely into Preud'homme's hands. Four minutes later, in the 38th minute, Barnes did get the ball in the net only to see the 'goal' disallowed for offside. TV replays proved linesman Helmut Kohl to have been at fault. Barnes was onside when Gary Lineker centred.

At the start of the second half Barnes had an angled volley well saved by the diving Preud'homme. But Belgium broke back, thanks to a McMahon pass being luckily redirected by the referee.

Ceulemans passed back and Scifo struck a post from 30 yards. England's response was a raid which failed only because Lineker let the ball run away from him in the penalty box and Preud'homme saved at his feet. Both teams introduced substitutes. But whereas Belgium failed to capitalise on the pace of Claesen against the half-fit Butcher and Walker, England went close when Bull headed wide.

Extra time was preceded by police action to split up the crowd behind one goal for reasons which were not immediately apparent. Down on the pitch Platt fired wastefully wide after a lucky rebound off Versavel – who then tried to make amends when he shot wide at the other end. Scifo drove wide and earned an ovation from the crowd but the match was looking like penalties throughout the second half of extra time. Belgium's problem was that their older men such as Ceulemans could no longer support the tactical effort. Thus England went close after 113 minutes when Bull had a shot tipped round the post for a corner by Preud'homme. Butcher and Co appeared happy to play the ball around in defence. But Shilton screamed at them to go forward and Gascoigne did just that. He darted at the Belgian defence, was bundled over by Gerets, and clipped forward the free kick which Platt hooked home for the most famous goal he will ever score.

Platt's sensational strike in the last minute of extra-time.

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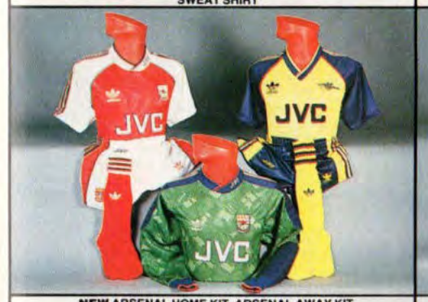

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Argentina celebrate after their amazing victory.

GOYCOCHEA SAVES CHAMPS

Argentina v Yugoslavia

June 30 – Florence
Argentina 0
Yugoslavia 0
Att: 38,971. **Ref:** Rothliesberger (Swz)
Argentina 3-2 on penalties after extra time
Penalty sequence (Argentina first): Serrizuela 1-0, Stojkovic hits bar; Burruchaga 2-0, Prosinecki 2-1; Maradona saved 2-1, Savicevic 2-2; Troglio hits post 2-2, Brnovic saved 2- 2; Dezotti 3-2, Hadzibegic saved.

Argentina: Goycochea – Ruggeri, Simon, Serrizuela – Basualdo, Burruchaga, Giusti, Calderon (Dezotti 91), Olarticoechea (Troglio 51) – Maradona, Caniggia.

Yugoslavia: Ivkovic – Spasic, Hadzibegic, Sabanadzovic – Jozic – Vulic, Susic (Savicevic 61), Prosinecki, Brnovic – Stojkovic, Vujovic.

Sent off: Sabanadzovic, 31 min.

DIEGO MARADONA very nearly paid the ultimate penalty as he and Argentina saved their world crown only in a shoot-out.

Four years to the day that Argentina won the World Cup in Mexico City, Maradona even saw Slav keeper Tomislav Ivkovic save his own kick in a dramatic finale.

But in the end the hero of the day was Sergio Goycochea, the Argentine goalkeeper playing only because first-choice Nery Pumpido broke his leg in the first round victory over the Soviet Union. Goycochea saved spot-kicks from Dragoljub Brnovic and Faruk Hadzibegic to send the World Cup holders into the semi-finals.

His saves also sent Argentina's fans and bands into massed renderings of the Vamos, Vamos Argentina chorus which was their battle hymn when they won the game's premier prize both in 1978 and 1986.

If Argentina had shown more interest in scoring goals than in covering the legs of Slav star Dragan Stojkovic with stud marks, they might not have needed the quarter-final lottery. But the South Americans had scored only four goals in five games and their lack of confidence was reflected in their approach work.

Even against a Slav side reduced to ten men after the 31st-minute expulsion of Refik Sabanadzovic, they were too fussy around the goal area and, in the end, lucky to survive.

If anything, Yugoslavia were enjoying slightly the better of the cautious exchanges when the match blew off course. In the 13th minute sweeper Davor Jozic burst into the Argentine penalty box only to volley a cross from veteran Safet Susic over the bar. Jozic held his head in his hands both then and nine minutes later when he was running through in support as Robert Prosinecki, one of European football's great young talents, drove an angled cross-shot narrowly wide.

Sabanadzovic was booked for not retreating at a free kick and then shown a second yellow card, swiftly followed by the red from Swiss referee Kurt Rothliesberger, after tripping Maradona. Yugoslavia wasted time as eagerly as they could for the rest of the match. But Argentina might have had it all wrapped up in the second half of normal time.

A 48th-minute header from Oscar Ruggeri landed on top of the bar and then Slav keeper Tomislav Ivkovic saved well from a drive by Jorge Burruchaga and two far-post incursions by Ruggeri again and then Ricardo Giusti.

Substitute Dejan Savicevic was narrowly over the bar from close-range after a Prosinecki-Stojkovic move at the start of extra time. But Argentine substitutes Pedro Troglio and Gustavo Dezotti went close at the opposite end either side of the extra time change of ends.

Three minutes from the shoot-out Argentina thought they had the match won when Burruchaga steered home a short cross from Basualdo. But referee Rothliesberger disallowed the 'goal', ruling that Burruchaga had controlled the ball with his arm. A brief, angry exchange between the Argentines and the Slav bench followed before Rothliesberger blew his very last whistle.

The Slavs were by now too tired to concentrate on their penalties. Stojkovic rammed their first against the bar and it was only when Maradona missed and then Troglio struck a post that the Slavs glimpsed hope – quickly snuffed out by Goycochea.

Amazing to think that Goycochea, before the World Cup, had not tasted competitive action for more than six months because of the suspension of the championship in Colombia, where he plays for Millonarios of Bogota.

Maradona said, tongue firmly in cheek: "I missed my penalty deliberately. I am very superstitious. I remembered that Ivkovic was the goalkeeper for Sporting Lisbon when Napoli played them last season in the UEFA Cup. That went to a penalty shoot-out. I missed my kick but we won. I wanted to make sure the same thing happened this time ..."

Argentina defender Ruggeri gets to grips with Spasic on one of his far-post raids.

EIRE TRIUMPH IN DEFEAT

Baresi and De Agostini stop Aldridge getting through.

Bonner, hobbled, was a match-winner. Quinn and Fear show their determination.

Italy v Rep of Ireland

June 30 – Rome
Italy 1 (Schillaci 37)
Rep Ireland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 73,303. **Ref:** Silva Valente (Por).

Italy: Zenga – Bergomi, Baresi, Ferri, Maldini – De Napoli, De Agostini, Giannini (Ancelotti 62), Donadoni – Baggio (Serena 70), Schillaci.

Rep Ireland: Bonner – Morris, McCarthy, Moran, Staunton – Houghton, McGrath, Townsend, Sheedy – Quinn (Cascarino 53), Aldridge (Sheridan 78).

THE IRISH adventure came to a predictable end against the hosts.

Jack Charlton's men gave the hosts a good chasing but Italy never looked in serious danger and manager Vicini was probably secretly pleased his men had been given such a physical encounter.

The Irish Republic will not be remembered for the quality of their football or their entertainment value but their fans certainly left a joyful impression on the Italians who were amazed that supporters of a losing team should wait 45 minutes after the match for a sight of their manager.

This was Italy's fifth different starting line-up in five games and a different sort of test. For once they were up against a team who had plenty of respect but no fear for them. As Charlton and his players pointed out, they had achieved Irish soccer history already.

If they lost to the hosts, perhaps the best team in the finals, that would be no disgrace. They had nothing to lose. Italy, on the other hand, had plenty at stake. Vicini and his players were not helped by a string of TV pundits telling the Italian nation that the Irish had nothing to offer and would be easily beaten. In fact, once the game was under way, it was the Irish who had the first chance. McGrath swung in a cross from the right and Niall Quinn's header forced a beautiful diving catch from keeper Walter Zenga. Italy replied with off- target headers from Salvatore Schillaci and Paolo Maldini.

There were first-half yellow cards for De Agostini and Moran but also, inbetween, Italy's breakthrough goal. Roberto Baggio, really starting to fly in this World Cup, broke past three defenders from the right, Giannini fed fit-again Roberto Donadoni and the power of his snap-shot knocked Bonner off his feet. Schillaci pounced to strike the loose ball inside the far post for his fourth goal of the finals.

Ireland threw everything forward at the start of the second half. Aldridge had a penalty claim rejected while at the other end Giannini touched a free kick for Schillaci to crack a shot against the underside of the bar. The Irish gained plenty of possession without ever threatening to find dangerous positions. Italy looked more threatening on the break. Once Donadoni chipped forward and substitute Aldo Serena headed wide. Then a great long pass from Franco Baresi set Serena clear only for Bonner to save bravely at his feet. In the last minute Schillaci had a 'goal' disallowed by a controversial offside decision. Italy were in the quarter-finals and, for all the Irish celebrations and noise, that was what really mattered.

ITALIA'90 QUARTER FINALS

W. Germany v Czechoslovakia

July 1 – Milan
West Germany 1 (Matthaus 24 pen)
Czechoslovakia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att**: 74,000. **Ref**: Kohl (Aus)
W Germany: Illgner – Berthold, Kohler, Augenthaler, Buchwald – Littbarski, Matthaus, Bein (Moller 82), Brehme – Riedle, Klinsmann.
Czechoslovakia: Stejskal – Hasek, Kocian Straka, Kadlec – Bilek (Nemecek 67), Chovanec, Kubik (Griga 79), Moravcik – Skuhravy, Knoflicek.
Sent off: Moravcik, 70min.

Captain Matthaus won the game for West Germany.

REF KILLS GAME

WEST GERMANY reached the semi-finals without ever reaching peak form while Czechoslovakia's chances of making a late revival bear fruit were hampered by the ridiculous expulsion of Lubomir Moravcik.

Fair play is one thing, but the public also deserves to be considered and to see Czechoslovakia reduced in the way they were was an insult to the paying spectators. Perhaps referee Kohl was just having one of those bad spells which affect anyone at work: the Austrian was the referee who disallowed, wrongly as TV proved, a John Barnes 'goal' for England against Belgium a few days earlier.

The Germans were immediately into their stride, despite the absence of the suspended Voller. Their early pressure stretched the Czechoslovaks and provoked yellow cards for Moravcik, for fouling Littbarski, and for Bilek, for fouling Matthaus. Guido Buchwald missed an open goal then Ivan Hasek had to clear off the line for a corner.

That was the prelude to West Germany taking the lead in the 24th minute. Klinsmann, racing for goal, was brought down by Straka and Matthaus rammed the penalty kick home for what proved the only goal. Klinsmann was in the thick of the action repeatedly. In the 27th minute he was shown the yellow card for a trip then Straka was booked for fouling him ten minutes later. In first half overtime Klinsmann saw a further goal effort headed off the line by ever-alert Hasek.

The second half contained little class action. Littbarski had a shot well saved by Stejskal for a corner then Buchwald's effort from the corner was cleared off the goal-line, this time by Bilek. Bein had a shot well saved by the busy Stejskal, who followed up with a good stop from Brehme after a free kick. He might also have conceded a penalty when his clumsy tumble to halt Riedle brought Voller's deputy tumbling in the box. But referee Kohl waved play on. In the 70th minute came the second Moravcik incident. Having chased a through pass in company with a German defender Moravcik was upset not to be awarded a corner. His boot was hanging half off and he kicked it up in the air in his frustration. Referee Kohl, presumably deeming this dissent, showed him the yellow card and then the "inevitable RED" NOT yellow. From that point on the game as a contest was virtually dead and West Germany were through to face England in Turin.

Knoflicek of Czechoslovakia gets the better of Berthold on this occasion.

West Germany's man-of-the-match Klinsmann takes a tumble over Kocian ... but no yellow card this time.

LINEKER'S DRAMATIC DOUBLE

Shilton has to be at his best to stop Biyik.

Cameroon v England

July 1 – Naples
Cameroon 2 (Kunde 61, Ekeke 64)
England 1 (Platt 25, Lineker 82pen, 105pen)
HT: 0-1. **90min**: 2-2. **Att**: 55,205. **Ref**: Codesal Mendez (Mex)
After extra time
Cameroon: N'kono – Tataw, Massing, Kunde, Ebwelle – Mfede (Ekeke 62), Maboang (Milla 46), Kunde, Libih, Makanaky – Omam Biyik.
England: Shilton – Parker, Walker, Wright, Butcher (Steven 73), Pearce – Waddle, Platt, Gascoigne, Barnes (Beardsley 46) – Lineker.

ENGLAND'S bid to enter the semi-finals for the first time since 1966 was the most dramatic of the semi-finals.

The key element was, yet again, the football of Cameroon. Not this time the cautious squeezing tactics to eat up time and temper, but the very best football they had produced in these finals.

At one stage it appeared as if David Platt would again be the hero of the night. It was Platt who provided a text-book far post header to a Stuart Pearce cross after 25 minutes to put Bobby Robson's men into the lead at a time when they really did appear to be struggling at the back.

Though England began as clear favourites they were not playing like it when a Makanaky cross from the right ripped their defence wide open in the 21st minute. Omam Biyik was clear on goal but tried to drive his shot past the onrushing Shilton, who stood up and parried the drive with his fists. The ball bounded out in front of goal where Mfede let fly with a drive which swerved wide of both Shilton's dive and the post.

England's seizure of the lead four minutes later did nothing to upset the Cameroon spirit. Libih should have done better than head over the bar a left- wing cross from Mfede and then Libih, fortunately for England, failed to control the ball when Makanaky chipped another giant hole in the England defence.

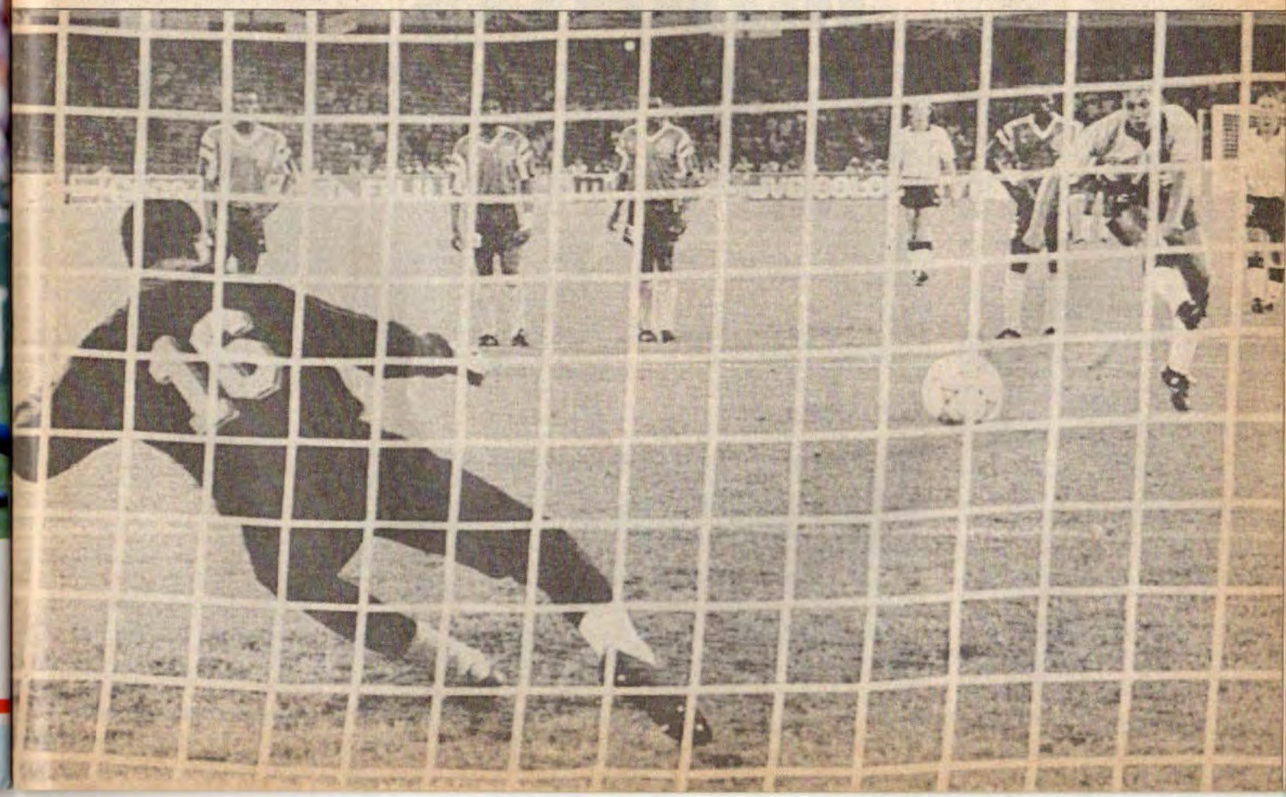
Cameroon brought on Roger Milla – shaven head now – at the start of the second half and his talismanic influence brought them not only back into the match but into a brief lead. The turning point was a moment on the hour when Platt appeared to be brought down by N'kono as he chased a Pearce cross at the near post.

Referee Codesal Mendez waved play on, Cameroon ran away onto the attack and Gascoigne tripped Milla. This was a penalty and Kunde's shot just eased up past Shilton's hands to bring Cameroon on terms. Immediately Cameroon brought on Ekeke as substitute for the tiring Mfede and, within two minutes, he had shot Cameroon into the lead.

The through pass, inevitably, came from Milla. Omam Biyik very nearly slipped through for another and Cameroon appeared in control when this unreadable drama took another twist. This time England did get the penalty when Lineker was tripped and the Tottenham striker rapped home the equaliser himself with eight minutes remaining.

Into extra time and another Lineker penalty, this time after a trip as he darted into the box gave him the chance to stab a second goal past N'kono and put England into the semi-finals. Cameroon, by now, had run out of stamina and spirit. Even though England could use Wright only as a passenger up front – he had suffered a serious cut over his left eye after a collision of heads with Milla – they controlled the final minutes. Paul Parker moved into the centre of defence and was superb and substitute Trevor Steven was outstanding – even once clearing out of his own six-yard box.

Gascoigne and Beardsley are happy winners ... after Lineker scores the decisive spot-kick.



ITALIA'90 SEMI FINALS

Italy v Argentina

July 3 – Naples
Italy 1 (Schillaci 17)
Argentina 1 (Caniggia 67)
HT: 1-0. **90min**: 1-1. **Att**: 59,978 (receipts £3.48million). **Ref**: Vautrot (Fr)
Argentina 4-3 on penalties after extra time
Italy: Zenga – Bergomi, Baresi, Ferri, Maldini – De Napoli, De Agostini, Giannini (Baggio 73), Donadoni – Vialli (Serena 70), Schillaci.
Argentina: Goycochea – Ruggeri, Simon, Serrizuela – Basualdo (Batista 99), Giusti, Burruchaga, Calderon (Troglio 46), Olarticoechea – Caniggia, Maradona.
Sent off: Giusti, 109 min (overtime in first half of extra time)
Penalty sequence (Italy first): Baresi 1-0, Serrizuela 1-1; Baggio 2-1, Burruchaga 2-2; De Agostini 3-2, Olarticoechea 3-3; Donadoni saved 3-3, Maradona 3-4; Serena saved 3-4.

Bergomi tries to stop Maradona in full flight.

ANOTHER chapter in the Maradona legend as the world's No 1 footballer inspired a triumph which turned the entire World Cup finals on their head.

MARADONA INSPIRES 'MIRACLE'

Italy saved their poorest game of the finals for the most important occasion; Argentina produced their best, grittiest display of the finals – yet, in the process, lost a string of key players for the Final because of suspension.

The expulsion of Giusti and the yellow cards for Claudio Caniggia and Julio Olaticoechea were a heavy price to pay for victory.

This time, when it mattered, Maradona got it right. His was the last penalty Argentina needed to take. Goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea then saved from both Roberto Donadoni and substitute Aldo Serena and it was all over for Italy.

The bubble had burst – been burst by the one and only Maradona in his own adopted home of the Stadio San Paolo.

Italy were left with the Third Place play-off and a string of questions for manager Azeglio Vicini.

Why did he recall Gianluca Vialli in place of Roberto Baggio? Why did he then substitute Giuseppe Giannini with Baggio, leaving the Azzurri looking like a ship without a rudder? Why did he keep Carlo Ancelotti on the bench rather than play him from the start, when his presence means so much to the other players? And if Ancelotti was not fit enough to play, how could he then be fit enough to sit on the sidelines?

No such pressures for Argentine manager Carlos Bilardo. Suddenly all his tactical and selection decisions were justified – at a stroke, as it were, of a penalty kick. Argentina probably spent more of the first half on the attack than Italy but it was impossible to believe they could win. Italy had, after all, looked one of the two best teams in the finals, along with West Germany.

By contrast, Argentina suffered by comparison with the lack of penetrative confidence which Schillaci brought to the hosts. After five free kicks for fouls in the first three minutes the game settled down to a steady, if low-key series of exchanges. Italian goalkeeper Walter Zenga made an excellent save from Jorge Burruchaga after eight minutes, diving across to his right to push the ball around the post for a corner.

But when Italy at last managed a serious thrust of their own, they scored. Schillaci began the move, De Napoli and Vialli flicked the passes on for Giannini to chip the ball into the penalty area. The Roma midfielder followed through by winning the ball in the air, Vialli volleyed for goal and though Goycochea blocked this effort Schillaci was right in his usual predatory place to shoot home.

Burruchaga tried to inspire Argentina's comeback. He was doing the work of two men. But Italy's defence was taking care of Caniggia and Maradona easily with zone rather than man-for-man tactics. Maradona did spin through 180 degrees for one shot but Zenga caught the ball easily on his goal-line. A further shot by Caniggia was saved as simply and, just before half-time, the Argentines wasted a free kick in front of goal after Bergomi body-checked Caniggia.

At the start of the second half Argentina introduced Troglio for Calderon and suddenly looked better suited to the fray. Italy looked nervous. Did they sit on their lead or go all out to increase it?

While Italy were pondering, Argentina pounced. First Olarticoechea forced a good save from Zenga; then Caniggia delayed too long in front of an open goal and saw Baresi deflect his eventual shot for a corner; and then Caniggia equalised.

Maradona, of course, was at the heart of it. His deceptively gentle pass found Olarticoechea in space and when the midfielder delivered his angled cross, Caniggia flicked his bleached head at it with fatal timing for the helpess Zenga.

That was the first goal the Inter keeper had conceded in the finals and it was to prove crucial.

Italy sent on Serena and Baggio but the outcome was that they lost still more shape and discipline. Schillaci was suddenly exposed; being caught repeatedly offside. Sometimes the Polish linesman, Listkiewicz, was to blame; several times Schillaci himself was the culprit, caught ball-watching.

The rising tension and frustration sent tempers soaring. Ruggeri and Olarticoechea were booked, Goycochea made a fine save from De Agostini and then Caniggia was booked eight minutes from time for hands. The Argentine had several times thrown his arms at passing passes. He had only himself to blame.

In the first half of extra time Goycochea saved acrobatically from a Baggio free kick before referee Vautrot lectured both captains, warning them to tell their players to stop the rising tide of dissent before someone was yellow-carded or sent off.

Vautrot had added on four minutes to that extra first half when Baggio was knocked over in an off-the-ball incident. The Italians protested to the referee who called over Giusti and sent him off.

Earlier that would have been a serious blow for Argentina. Giusti had been superb in midfield in the second half of normal time. But both teams were so leg-weary and diminished by the second half of extra time that his absence mattered little. Maradona brilliantly created one opening which Olarticoechea wasted with an off-target drive but that proved the last chance and Argentina were back to penalties.

Everything went according to plan for Baresi and Serrizuela, for Baggio and Burruchaga, for De Agostini and Olarticoechea. Maradona, putting his Yugoslav disaster behind him, made no mistake. And when Goycochea produced another 'miracle double' Argentina, amazingly, were in the Final of the World Cup for the third time in 12 years.

Argentina after their shoot-out sensation.

ENGLAND GO OUT IN STYLE

W. Germany v England

July 4 – Turin
West Germany 1 (Brehme 59)
England 1 (Lineker 80)
HT: 0-0. **90min**: 1-1. **Att**: 62,628 (£3.67million).
Ref: Wright (Brz).
West Germany 4-3 on penalties after extra time
W Germany: Illgner – Berthold, Kohler, Augenthaler, Buchwald – Hassler (Reuter 66), Matthaus, Thon, Brehme – Voller (Riedle 38), Klinsmann.
England: Shilton – Parker, Walker, Wright, Butcher (Steven 70), Pearce – Waddle, Gascoigne, Platt, Beardsley – Lineker.
Penalty sequence (England first): Lineker 1-0, Brehme 1-1; Beardsley 2-1, Matthaus 2-2; Platt 3-2, Riedle 3-3; Pearce saved 3-3, Thon 3-4; Waddle over the bar 3-4.

Brehme's free-kick cannons off Parker and West Germany go ahead in Turin.

Butcher tries to console Gascoigne at the end.

THE 1990 World Cup finals may not have produced some of the most classical football in history, but they have produced some of the most dramatic.

One night it was Argentina beating Italy on penalties after extra time; the next night it was West Germany defeating England.

The second more than the first was a match which will live down the years. England played their best football of the finals; few people had expected them to reach the last four yet, having done so, they came within 11 metres of the Final itself.

The game ebbed and flowed. England ran the first phase; West Germany pressed at the end of the first half. West Germany controlled the start of the second and opened the scoring, then England battled back and deservedly equalised.

West German began extra time the stronger but England matched them yet again. That anyone had to lose was a travesty; both teams deserved to be winners on the night.

At the start of the evening the Germans, with Thomas Hassler and Olaf Thon surprisingly recalled in midfield, looked nothing like the team of earlier matches. They were edgy, nervous, and failed to string both passes and their game together. Matthaus dropped deeper and deeper in search of the ball. When he looked up all he could see was his team-mates overwhelmed in a wall of white shirts.

England maintained their five-man defence with Wright taking Klinsmann and Walker on Voller and, after his injury, Riedle. Beardsley, Gascoigne and Platt all kept their minds open to the possibilities of a quick break and Waddle hit some fine, perceptive long passes. Lineker, of course, chased them all down and kept the German defence on the move.

In the first minute Illgner dived to push a Gascoigne shot for a corner even though the effort appeared to be drifting wide. An opening engineered by Gascoigne led to Pearce shooting wide after half an hour which England had dominated.

A blow for West Germany was a shin injury which forced Voller's departure but while he was off receiving treatment Olaf Thon tested Shilton with a low shot to the goalkeeper's left. After Riedle's arrival the Germans began to flow forward with a little more confidence. Parker tripped Matthaus and when Brehme pushed the free kick square Augenthaler's drive was tipped over the bar by Shilton.

At the start of the second half England suddenly looked leg-weary, the Germans refreshed. At one end Parker shot wide under pressure from Augenthaler, at the other end Thon wasted the best chance so far when he outwitted the same Parker only to find Shilton had closed down the angle enough to block the shot.

In the 59th minute West Germany, with the run of play, went ahead. Hassler touched a free kick square and Brehme's drive took a deflection off Parker and curved over Shilton and just beneath the bar.

England sought their last dregs of energy. A Pearce header skimmed just wide, a Wright header was saved by Illgner and then – with Steve Bull warming up to prepare for one last charge – England pulled level. Parker turned from culprit into hero as his cross caught Augenthaler, Berthold and Kohler in a state of confusion. Gary Lineker took decisive advantage.

In extra time both Waddle and Buchwald shot against a post and Shilton made some world-class saves from Matthaus and Klinsmann. Finally it took a penalty shoot-out to beat him.

Lineker scores England's fine equaliser.

A dejected Waddle walks off after his penalty miss.

DIARY

WORLD SOCCER'S GLOBAL NEWS

FRIDAY, MAY 4

ITALY: Ruud Gullit says he will be fit enough to play for Milan in the Champions' Cup Final and that he will be available for Holland for the World Cup ... Fiorentina make an initial offer to Benfica for Brazil defender Aldair ... Italian doctors report in The Lancet that the AIDS virus, HIV, was transmitted in a bloody clash of heads in an unspecified Italian match.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA reject Fiorentina's appeal against their home-ground stadium ban for the second leg of the UEFA Cup Final.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

ACTION: Brazil beat Bulgaria 2-1 in Campinas with goals from Muller and Aldair; the United States beat Malta 1-0 in Piscataway, New Jersey; in the Chicago semi-finals of the Marlboro Cup, Costa Rica lose 2-0 to Atlas of Mexico and Colombia beat Poland 2-1.

WORLD CUP: Carlos Aguilera, freed from house arrest after a judge ruled he was not proved to have been an active member of a South American-inspired prostitution ring, rejoins the Uruguay squad ... organising chief Luca di Montezemolo says it will be impossible to guarantee 100 per cent fan segregation. His good news is that the stadia in Rome and Naples will be ready on May 15.

BELGIUM: Brugge win easily by 3-0 away to St Truiden to make sure of their championship success with one round remaining. Closest rivals Anderlecht are held 1-1 away by struggling Beveren.

EAST GERMANY: The Match-of-the-Season, between leaders Magdeburg and champions Dresden, ends in a 1-1 draw. Magdeburg thus maintain a one-point lead over Dresden and Karl-Marx-Stadt with three championship rounds remaining.

ENGLAND: Hooligan trouble breaks out in a big way in Bournemouth as Leeds fans without tickets try to force their way in to see the promotion-clinching second division match. Police estimate more than 2,000 travelling fans having been involved in trouble of one sort or another in the town or around the Dean Court stadium.

FRANCE: Goals in the last 12 minutes from Francescoli and Papin earn Marseille a 2-0 win away to sixth-placed Auxerre. Marseille, with a vastly superior goal difference, lead Bordeaux by two points with two games to go ... in the second division Rennes follow Nancy in clinching an automatic promotion place.

ITALY: Napoli striker Andrea Carnevale will transfer to Roma after the World Cup finals in a £2.4million deal.

SPAIN: Real Madrid celebrate their championship repeat by thrashing Oviedo 5-2 in their last match. A 100,000 crowd sees Hugo Sanchez score the hat-trick which means he equals the 38-goal league goal-scoring record set by Bilbao's Telmo Zarra in 1951.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA rejects a Spanish federation appeal against a £650,000 fine imposed for permitting unauthorised league match television transmissions abroad. The federation is also ordered to pay the £13,000 costs of the hearing ... Grasshoppers seize the championship lead thanks to a 5-0 thrashing of champions and previous leaders Xamax Neuchatel. Danish forward Marc Strudal scores twice as Xamax's run without a win is extended to five games.

WEST GERMANY: Hooligan trouble sees 75 fans arrested after heavy street fighting following Waldhof-Mannheim's 1-0 home defeat by Fortuna Dusseldorf. The result secures first division survival for Fortuna but condemns Mannheim, early-season UEFA Cup place contenders, to almost certain relegation.

SUNDAY, MAY 6

ACTION: Canada beat the United States 1-0 in the opening game of the Corona Three-Nations' Cup in Vancouver ... in the Marlboro Cup in Chicago, Atlas of Mexico beat Colombia 4-1 on penalties after a goalless draw in the final. In the third-place play-off, Poland beat Costa Rica 2-0.

WORLD CUP: Juventus players need police protection as they are mobbed by angry Fiorentina fans on their arrival for training with the Italian World Cup squad at the coaching centre of Coverciano near Florence ... Egypt and Colombia agree to play a warm-up match on May 27 in Neg Hammadi, 300 miles south of Cairo.

ALBANIA: Dinamo Tirana beat Luftetari 3-0 to stretch their top-of-the-table lead over Partizani to four points. Partizani are held 1-1 away to Labinoti.

ARGENTINA: Independiente blow virtually their last hope of a championship recovery when they are held 1-1 at home by River Plate – who thus maintain a four-point advantage at the top of the table.

GREECE: In the top-of-the-table clash, Panathinaikos draw 1-1 against second-placed AEK and maintain their four-point lead with three games to play.

HOLLAND: Ajax's 1-1 draw away to NEC is enough to crown them champions. PSV, 2-0 winners at Haarlem, finish one point adrift. But there is hooligan trouble in Nijmegen on both Saturday night and Sunday, with 34 rampaging Ajax fans being arrested by baton-charging police. Other Ajax fans wreck a train and a station platform in Arnhem on their way to the game. The NEC v Ajax match has to be held up for four minutes just before the end because of a pitch invasion.

ITALY: Torino (who draw 3-3 at Trieste) and Pisa (who draw 0-0 at home to Cosenza) are ensured of promotion back to the first division after just one season in the second.

PORTUGAL: An 80,000 crowd sees Porto clinch their 11th championship with two games to go thanks to a 1-0 win over Setubal. Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva is among the spectators who see the game decided by a controversial goal from Jorge Couto. Setubal claim vainly that his shot was cleared before crossing the goal-line. Runners-up Benfica beat Uniao 4-2 despite the absences of Aldair, Ricardo and Valdo, who are all on World Cup preparation duty with Brazil.

SPAIN: Cadiz, coached by Colin Addison, escape relegation at the last moment thanks to a 1-0 win over doomed Celta. Real Sociedad leapfrog over Sevilla into the last UEFA Cup place when they win 1-0 away to their rivals thanks to a late Aldridge penalty.

SWEDEN: For the third game in a row Brage drop a point to a goal in the second minute of injury time. This time a penalty award gives Halmstad a 1-1 draw. Djurgarden and Orebro were the previous beneficiaries from Brage's generosity.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA's new president Lennart Johansson says the Bournemouth hooligan riots have probably destroyed any prospect of English clubs returning to European competition next season ... UEFA reject Partizan Belgrade's appeal against a £22,000 fine for hooligan violence at the Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final against Dinamo Bucharest in March.

TURKEY: Astonishing scenes in Fenerbahce's 5-1 win over Ankaragucu. Always-controversial West German keeper Toni Schumacher is involved in a scuffle with Turkish international defender Mujdat Yetkiner in his anger over the penalty which provides Ankaragucu's consolation goal. The scuffle between the two men continues in the dressing room after the game.

URUGUAY: Penarol win the Montevideo 'Clasico' with a 1-0 win over Nacional. But Wanderers remain early league leaders.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star beat struggling Velez Mostar 3-0 to clinch the league title with two matches to go. Pursuers Dinamo Zagreb crash 3-0 away to Ljubljana, where the visitors' hooligan followers (the self-styled 'Bad Blue Boys') run riot and cause extensive in and around the stadium.

MONDAY, MAY 7

WORLD CUP: Spain produce one surprise in their squad of 22, the inclusion of uncapped Bilbao defender Rafael Alkorta ... one day after being attacked by angry Fiorentina fans, Juventus star Salvatore Schillaci breaks a finger in training with Italy's World Cup squad ... Italy manager Azeglio Vicini says his players have been ordered to avoid sex during the finals ... Sweden manager Olle Nordin says he may resign after the World Cup to take up a club appointment after interest from Italian clubs.

Martin Vazquez.

SPAIN: Real Madrid's star midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez, the season's outstanding individual, says he WILL move to Italy after his contract expires on June 30. He says he is leaving Madrid with regrets because "the club does not value me to the extent I believe I deserve." Torino are transfer favourites.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA's vacillating president Lennart Johansson says UEFA will pass judgment on May 24 on a possible return of English clubs to European competition. Meanwhile police say they warned the Football League last June and again this spring that major trouble was likely at the Bournemouth v Leeds match but appeals to have the game switched were rejected.

TURKEY: Toni Schumacher resigns as Fenerbahce captain in the wake of Sunday's public punch-up with team-mate Mujdat. Schumacher says: "I don't approve of the way I over-reacted and I no longer deserve to be skipper."

TUESDAY, MAY 8

ACTION: Switzerland and Argentina draw 1-1 in Berne ... Uruguay draw 1-1 against an Andalucia XI in Seville ... in the South American club cup, Universidad Catolica of Chile beat Sporting Cristal of Peru 2-0 in Santiago.

WORLD CUP: Austria manager Josef Hickersberger says his players will able to meet wives and girlfriends during the finals – "but only for afternoon coffee." ... West German team chief Franz Beckenbauer says he believes his team can win the Cup this time. He says: "We have better players now than in 1986 but that will not help unless we display the same determination" ... Costa Rica fly in to Italy to begin finals preparation.

ITALY: Fiorentina settle on Avellino as the venue for their "home" leg of the UEFA Cup Final against Juventus.

UNITED STATES: Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of State, and Steve Ross, Time Warner chief executive, are co-opted onto the World Cup '94 organising committee.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

ACTION: Sampdoria win the Cup-winners' Cup, their first European trophy, by defeating Anderlecht 2-0 after extra time in Gothenburg. Italian World Cup star Gianluca Vialli scores both goals ... South Korea lose 2-1 to Arsenal in the Caltex Cup challenge in Singapore ... in the European under-21 championship, the Soviet Union beat Sweden 2-0 in Simferopol (and 3-1 on aggregate), while Yugoslavia draw 2-2 away to Italy in Parma (and qualify for the finals on the away goals rule: aggregate 2-2).

WORLD CUP: Argentina fly in to begin concluding preparations at Trigoria for the World Cup finals ... municipal officials in Sardinia invite the British Queen, Holland's Queen Beatrix, Irish President Patrick Hillery and Egypt President Hosni Mubarak to watch their respective teams at the World Cup finals ... British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan appeals for Sardinian officials to introduce strict restrictions on the sale of alcohol during the first round phase.

AUSTRIA: Tirol secure the league title for a second successive season thanks to a 1-0 win over to pursuers FK Austria in Vienna. Argentina's Nestor Gorosito scores the decisive goal. FKA coach Herbert Prohaska promises his fans: "I guarantee we'll win the cup." FKA face old rivals Rapid in the final on the forthcoming Saturday.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Plastika Nitra hit a season's record 9-1 win over relegation-bound Spartak Trnava on the last day of the league campaign.

EAST GERMANY: Senior DFV officials say East Germany may withdraw from the forthcoming European championship because of the pace of progress towards social, political and sporting unification with West Germany ... three more stars agree to pack their bags and head west: Matthias Sammer (Dresden) will join Stuttgart, Thomas Doll and Frank Rohde (both FC Berlin) will join Hamburg.

FRANCE: Marseille president Bernard Tapie tells city officials to come up with proposals for a new municipal stadium or he may sell star players to recover his £12million investment in the club. Marseille mayor Robert Vigouroux says no decision on a new stadium, or redevelopment and extension of the Velodrome, can be considered until after France has secured the rights to host the 1998 World Cup finals.

ITALY: Champions Napoli agree terms to buy goalkeeper Giovanni Galli from Milan and striker Andrea Silenzi, Reggiana's second division top scorer ... former Poland and Juventus star Zbigniew Boniek is appointed coach to Lecce.

SOVIET UNION: The Lithuanian club Zhalgiris Vilnius are refused access to their usual spring training facilities in Erfurt because the Lithuanian clubs have excluded themselves from the Soviet federation and thus from FIFA jurisdiction.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA president Lennart Johansson says Ajax's appeal for an amnesty over their one-year European exclusion will be seriously considered by the executive on May 24.

THURSDAY, MAY 10

ACTION: The United States score an excellent 3-1 victory over a strong Poland team in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

WORLD CUP: British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan says he has been encouraged about the prospects for World Cup security after a three-day visit to Italy.

PORTUGAL: In the cup semi-finals, unfancied Farense win 2-1 away to Belenenses after extra time but Estrela Amadora and Vitoria Guimaraes draw 1-1.

SERVICE CONDUCTED BY KEIR RADNEDGE

FRIDAY, MAY 11

ACTION: Mexico beat the United States 1-0 in Burnaby, Canada, in the second match of the Corona Cup series ... Trinidad and Tobago draw 1-1 with East Germany's Olympic team in Port of Spain.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

AUSTRIA: FK Austria make good coach Prohaska's promise, and beat Rapid 3-1 after extra time in the cup final before a 16,000 crowd in the Prater stadium.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht return to form with a 4-2 win over FC Liege – much too late – on the last day of the season. They finish league runners-up, four points behind Brugge.

ENGLAND: Manchester United and Crystal Palace draw 3-3 after extra time in a low-quality but dramatic FA Cup Final at Wembley ... after talks in London before the Final, UEFA president Lennart Johansson agrees that a decision on the return of English clubs to Europe will be delayed until after the World Cup finals.

FRANCE: Marseille make cast-iron certain of retaining the league title. They beat Caen 1-0, with a goal from Vercruysse, while Bordeaux lose 1-0 away to relegation-battling Nice. Marseille thus hold a four-point lead with one game remaining.

SCOTLAND: In British football's first major title shoot-out, Aberdeen win the Scottish Cup Final by defeating Celtic 9-8 on penalties after a goalless draw.

URUGUAY: Eduardo Dcuniewski, the referee who sent off 20 players and two substitutes in the Penarol v Nacional explosion on April 19, is himself suspended for six games – a tougher punishment than any of the players received. Dcuniewski's crime was to break a referees' association rule banning members from discussing matches with the media.

WEST GERMANY: A last-minute goal from Poland's Jan Furtok brings Hamburg a 1-0 win over Waldhof-Mannheim, who are thus relegated. Bochum win 2-0 at home to Karlsruhe and must play-off for first division survival. Bayern Munich end their championship season with a six-point lead over runners-up Koln.

SUNDAY, MAY 13

ACTION: Brazil and East Germany draw 3-3 in Rio ... Canada beat Mexico 2-1 in Vancouver to win the Corona North America Cup ... in the South American club cup Colo Colo beat Sporting Cristal 2-0 in Santiago.

WORLD CUP: Liverpool's Steve Nicol is ruled out of the finals after undergoing surgery on a groin problem.

ARGENTINA: River Plate beat Estudiantes 2-0 to win their 21st Argentine championship. Striker Ismael Medina Bello scores both goals to leave River five points clear of Independiente with two games to play. River will now join Independiente in this year's South American club cup.

AUSTRIA: Admira striker Gerhard Rodax signs a £2.2million three-year contract with Atletico Madrid.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Dukla win the cup on a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw in the final against Inter Bratislava.

DENMARK: Silkeborg beat Naestved 3-0 to remain one point clear of Brondby and Frem after seven rounds of the championship.

GREECE: Olympiakos beat Panionios 2-0 thanks to two own goals from Makis Hadjimoisiadis.

HUNGARY: MTK-VM step within two games of the league title thanks to a 5-1 thrashing of Szombathely. But famous Honved lose 3-2 to Videoton and remain in danger of relegation.

PORTUGAL: Mats Magnusson scores his 33rd goal of the season as Benfica win 1-0 away to Estrela Amadora on the penultimate day of the season. At the other end of the table Portimonense (beaten 3-1 by Setubal) and Uniao (held 0-0 by Madeira neighbours Maritimo) are both condemned to join Feirense in the second division next season.

ROMANIA: Dinamo (2-1 winners against Farul Constanta) and Steaua (4-2 winners over Bacau) are locked level on 47 points at the top.

YUGOSLAVIA: Hooligan violence on the grand scale breaks out in Zagreb before Dinamo's home game against champions-elect Red Star. Dinamo's 'Bad Blue Boys' run amok and it takes tear gas and water cannon to eventually disperse them. Police report more than 50 arrests and 100 injuries. Television coverage picks up several Dinamo players involved in the trouble – including national team player Zvonimir Boban. The Dinamo captain is pictured kicking a policeman, who claims to have lost three teeth in the incident.

MONDAY, MAY 14

ACTION: A Hong Kong Select beat Everton 3-1 on penalties after a 2-2 draw.

Franz Beckenbauer.

WORLD CUP: West Germany's squad begin preparations at the federation's favourite pre-World Cup training centre of Malente near the Baltic coast. Immediately team chief Beckenbauer announces that Kuntz, Reinhardt, Dorfner and Grahammer have been omitted from his original squad of 27 ... the United States surprisingly leave Red Star Paris forward Hugo Perez out of their finals squad of 22 ... Uruguay pull out of their scheduled friendly in Yugoslavia, giving no reason but telexing their decision immediately after news of the hooligan trouble in Zagreb ... Holland boss Leo Beenhakker says Ruud Gullit is still far from match fit "but I assume he will be in our squad for the finals."

ENGLAND: Sweden fullback Roland Nilsson tells Sheffield Wednesday he wants to take advantage of a clause in his contract allowing him a transfer in case of relegation ... the Sports Minister, with sinister significance, says it will support the football authorities "if they pull England out of the World Cup during the finals because fans were causing major or fatal incidents."

FRANCE: Dismissed national manager Henri Michel is appointed technical director of Paris Saint-Germain next season. He will work in conjunction with ex-Marseille coach Gerard Banide in succession to Yugoslav Tomislav Ivic ... Caen sign Lyon goalkeeper Francois Lemasson.

HOLLAND: Feyenoord buy national team defender Henk Fraser from Roda.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: National manager Jack Charlton suggests that FIFA may have been inciting hooligan trouble with their public expressions of concern. Charlton says: "They are making everybody frightened to death with all the talk about security problems. Effectively, they have invited every lunatic in the world to go to Sardinia for a bloodbath."

WALES: Ian Rush, carrying a rib injury, withdraws from the Wales squad to face Costa Rica on Sunday.

YUGOSLAVIA: National team supremo Miljan Miljanic says Yugoslavia should consider giving up soccer altogether, in the wake of the Zagreb hooligan scandal. He says: "Soccer cannot exist as an expression of hatred."

TUESDAY, MAY 15

ACTION: England beat Denmark 1-0 ... Northern Ireland lose 3-2 at home to the Irish Republic in a B international ... Colo Colo beat Union Huaral of Peru 3-1 in the South American cup-tie.

WORLD CUP: Colombia fly out from Bogota on their way to Italy for the finals ... Belgium manager Guy Thys surprisingly omits Anderlecht striker Luc Nilis out of his squad of 22 ... West Germany's retiring team chief Beckenbauer says that, "if asked," he would be interested in a role in the United States' organisation for the 1994 World Cup ... Scotland call up veteran winger Davie Cooper for the forthcoming friendly against Egypt ... Rome's traffic police announce a six-day strike to coincide with the start of the finals.

AUSTRIA: Champions Tirol end their season in style with a 5-3 win over St Polten – despite a hat-trick from their opponents' Argentine World Cup-winning veteran Mario Kempes.

BELGIUM: Relegated Racing Mechelen give a trial to Wimbledon midfielder Andy Clement.

FRANCE: Montpellier's Brazil defender Julio Cesar agrees a transfer to Juventus rather than Real Madrid ... the French federation announces an inquiry into the weekend match in which Montpellier and Monaco drew 0-0 in a match which helped both clubs – Montpellier towards safety from relegation and Monaco towards a UEFA Cup place.

YUGOSLAVIA: The federation penalises Dinamo Zagreb with a 3-0 disciplinary defeat for "failing to maintain stadium security" before the flashpoint match against Red Star Belgrade. The Croatia provincial government dismisses both police officers responsible for security arrangements.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

ACTION: Juventus win the UEFA Cup, forcing a goalless draw away against Fiorentina in Avellino in the second leg of the final and thus winning 3-1 on aggregate ... in internationals Israel beat the Soviet Union 3-2, the Irish Republic are held 1-1 in Dublin by Finland in Liam Brady's Farewell/testimonial, Scotland crash 3-1 at home to Egypt in Aberdeen.

WORLD CUP: Colombia arrive in Italy ... injured Holger Fach has to pull out of West Germany's squad of 23, thus relieving Franz Beckenbauer of the burden of picking the one man to be dropped before departure for Italy ... the World Cup organising committee say fireworks and alcohol will be confiscated when fans going to the finals matches are searched. Only banners "strictly connected with football" will be permitted.

ENGLAND: Seven policemen are hurt and there are 58 arrests after new hooligan trouble, this time in a pitch invasion three minutes from the end of the second division promotion play-off semi-final between Newcastle and Sunderland.

NORWAY: Champions Lillestrom beat Kongsvinger 4-0 to maintain their league leadership.

POLAND: Still neck and neck: Lech win 2-0 away to Motor Lublin to remain level on points with GKS Katowice and Zaglebie Lublin.

ROMANIA: Gheorghe Hagi is revealed as the man with whom Real Madrid are negotiating to replace Italy-bound Rafael Martin Vazquez.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star beat Spartak Subotica 3-0 on the last day of the season to finish a comfortable seven points clear of blighted runners-up Dinamo Zagreb.

THURSDAY, MAY 17

WORLD CUP: Austria name their squad of 22, with two surprises. One is the inclusion of FK Austria's 18-year-old midfielder, Thomas Flogel; the other is the selection of Sturm keeper Otto Konrad, whose career had appeared to have been halted in mid-season by a viral infection. ahead of Franz Wohlfarht ... the Irish Republic include only two goalkeepers in their squad of 22 ... Belgium are on £70,000-a-man to win the World Cup ... West German star Pierre Littbarski predicts a "boring" World Cup. He says: "There won't be too many good games. The majority of teams will be out to stop goals. Only ourselves, Brazil, Italy and Uruguay can change that."

AUSTRALIA: The New South Wales federation bans all national flags and emblems – other than the Australian flag – in an attempt to defuse the threat of ethnic violence at matches.

ENGLAND: Manager Bobby Robson denies reports that he is to take over PSV Eindhoven after the World Cup.

GREECE: Olympiakos beat OFI 4-2 in the cup final. Panayiotis Tsaluhidis and Lajos Detari both score twice.

HOLLAND: Brazil striker Romario signs a new six-year contract with PSV – then flies to join his country's World Cup squad.

ISRAEL: Liverpool's new hero Ronny Rosenthal apologises to Israeli fans for having failed to turn out (along with Eli Ohana and Shalom Tikva) against the Soviet Union in a row over insurance.

PORTUGAL: Estrela Amadora beat Vitoria Guimaraes 2-1 after extra time in a cup semi-final replay. Amadora now face second division Farense in the May 27 final.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

ACTION: Northern Ireland beat Uruguay 1-0 in Belfast ... the Soviet Union beat West German club Schalke 7-0 in Marburg; Yaremchuk scores four, Salenko, Shalimov and Liuty – who plays his club football for Schalke – score one each; Mikhailichenko, who hurt a hand against Israel, is out injured.

WORLD CUP: Sweden's squad of 22 includes three surprise youngsters in striker Tomas Brolin, midfielder Ulrik Jansson and defender Jan Eriksson ... Rumania name a basic squad of 20 for the finals and for the forthcoming friendly against Egypt. Dorin Mateut is recalled but there is no place (yet?) for Miodrag Belodedici ... Scotland's provisional 22 excludes Brian McClair, Robert Fleck, Kevin Gallacher and Steve Clarke.

FRANCE: Lyon conclude their purchase of Paraguay centre-forward Roberto Cabanas from Brest ... the federation decides not to pursue action over the controversial goalless draw between Montpellier and Monaco, but issues a statement reminding all clubs "of the necessity to offer, under all circumstances, a match worthy of professional soccer."

HOLLAND: Dismissed national manager Thys Libregts sues the KNVB for £400,000 damages. The action is set for a Utrecht civil court on June 1.

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ITALY: Juventus break the world transfer record by agreeing the £7.7million purchase of Italy superstar Roberto Baggio from Fiorentina. In Florence police are needed to break up a demonstration outside the Fiorentina club offices. Baggio's three-year contract is worth £850,000-a-year ... Dino Zoff, dismissed as coach by Juventus, signs a contract to take over Lazio.

WEST GERMANY: DFB president Hermann Neuberger says East German clubs should take part in the (West) German cup next season.

SATURDAY, MAY 19

ACTION: Scotland draw 1-1 with Poland ... Brazil beat a Madrid XI 1-0 in the Spanish capital ... Wales beat Poland 2-0 in an under-21 international in Merthyr.

WORLD CUP: Yugoslavia name their 22, without Dinamo Zagreb's controversial skipper Zvonimir Boban – dropped in response to public pressure over his involvement in the Zagreb soccer riot ... more than 2,000 Florence fans jeer Roberto Baggio and four Juventus players (Tacconi, De Agostini, Marocchi and Schillaci) as Italy's World Cup squad stage a public training session at Coverciano. After 40 minutes manager Vicini sends the five back to get changed early.

BELGIUM: Favourites FC Liege win the Belgian cup final, beating Germinal Ekeren 2-1.

EAST GERMANY: Senior officials of the DFB and DFV agree to merge all East and West German soccer from April 1992. But many East Germans say that is too late. Ex-national boss Bernd Stange says: "The best players have already left for the west. The one chance we had to stop the exodus was to merge from the start of next season. But 1992 will be too late. We will only have second-rate players left by then."

FRANCE: Marseille conclude their championship success with the disappointment of a 1-0 beating by Lyon, their first home defeat in two years. Racing Paris and Mulhouse are relegated while Nice must play off against Strasbourg.

WEST GERMANY: Kaiserslautern win the cup for the first time, beating Werder Bremen before a 76,391 crowd in the final in West Berlin.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star complete the double, beating Hajduk Split 1-0 in the cup final in Belgrade. Darko Pancev scores the decisive goal. But there will be no Slav entry in next season's Cup-winners' Cup since Hajduk are still under European suspension for hooligan misbehaviour.

SUNDAY, MAY 20

ACTION: Wales beat Costa Rica 1-0 in Cardiff ... the United States beat Partizan Belgrade 1-0 in New Haven, Conneticut ... Oleg Protasov scores twice as the Soviet Union beat Hannover 4-0 in the Lower Saxony capital.

WORLD CUP: Brazil's squad arrives in Italy ... a sports newspaper claims that up to 10,000 forged tickets for the July 8 Final have been sold.

ALBANIA: Dinamo win the championship despite losing their last match 2-0 to runners-up Partizani – who finish one point adrift.

GREECE: Panathinaikos draw 1-1 away to Kalamaria but since AEK are also held – 0-0 away to Apollon – the title is theirs. They lead by four points with one game remaining.

PORTUGAL: Veteran goalkeeper Manuel Bento, now 41, plays his first game of the season as Benfica's reserves beat Belenenses 1-0 in the last game of the league season. Angolan Abel Campos scores the match-winner.

SPAIN: Burgos and Betis win promotion from the second division. Espanol and Coruna win the right to play-off against Malaga and Tenerife.

TURKEY: Besiktas, already cup-winners, celebrate being crowned league champions despite losing their last match 2-1 away to Malatyaspor. Star forward Feyyaz is the league's top scorer with 28 goals.

MONDAY, MAY 21

ACTION: Poland beat the United Arab Emirates 4-0 in Marseille ... Rumania beat Egypt 1-0 in Bucharest.

WORLD CUP: England name their World Cup 22 with only one player from 1989 champions Arsenal – their new goalkeeper from QPR, David Seaman ... Holland manager Leo Beenhakker drops Ellerman, Kruzen and Hofkens from his preliminary squad of 28 ... Italy manager Vicini decides there will be no more public training sessions.

ITALY: Juventus spend another £4million on uncapped Lazio winger Paolo Di Canio ... Ruud Gullit at last signs his new three-year contract with Milan. It is worth £850,000-a-year.

PORTUGAL: Porto agree to sell Belgium World Cup defender Stefan Demol to Koln after only one season in Portugal. Demol, whose wife could not settle in Oporto, has scored 11 goals for the new champions – all penalties.

TUESDAY, MAY 22

ACTION: England have the World Cup wind taken out of their sails as two mistakes by veteran goalkeeper Peter Shilton help Uruguay win 2-1 at Wembley ... Argentina win 2-1 in Israel ... Colombia draw 1-1 in Poznan with Polish league leaders Lech ... Trinidad and Tobago beat FA Cup runners-up Crystal Palace 4-0 in Port of Spain ... Mexico draw 1-1 with Koln in the Cup of Nations tournament in Los Angeles. In the other semi-final Real Madrid beat a Central American XI 2-0.

WORLD CUP: Reassuring words on the hooligan front: Peter Van Essen, head of the Utrecht-based Dutch Football Hooliganism Unit, says: "We have contact with known trouble-makers and they have said they are not out to cause problems. They will go to enjoy the tournament, as they did the 1988 European championship."

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

ACTION: Milan become the first club since Nottingham Forest to retain the Champions' Cup when they beat Benfica 1-0 in Vienna's Prater stadium. Frank Rijkaard is the match-winner with his 68th-minute winning goal The fans are also winners: police report not one arrest ... Sweden's under-23 team beat Japan 1-0 in Gothenburg.

WORLD CUP: Seven foreign-based players are included in the Soviet Union's squad of 22 but Alexei Mikhailichenko is ruled out by injury and domestic Footballer of the Year Feodor Cherenkov is dropped.

GREECE: In the league cup semi-finals AEK beat Levadiakos (1-0 on the night and on aggregate) and Olympiakos beat Panathinaikos (a 2-2 draw earns an away goals win on a 3-3 aggregate).

HOLLAND: Prince Polley, the Ghana international who proved a sensation with 16 goals in 19 games for Sparta Rotterdam, signs for Belgian club Beerschot.

NORWAY: An Oslo newspaper says three Scandinavian associations are to launch a joint league next summer which will feature the top four teams from Sweden, Norway and Denmark playing in four groups of one team from each country. Cash bonuses are promised for each group winner with £400,000 for the overall champions. The organisers also plan to seek UEFA permission for the winners to enter the Champions' Cup.

UNITED STATES: Scott LeTellier, president of the World Cup '94 organisers, says six cities have so far expressed interest in staging the Final – Dallas, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Miami, Seattle and Washington. Altogether 27 cities are interested in staging matches.

YUGOSLAVIA: Hajduk's international midfielder Aliosja Asanovic is transferred to French club Metz.

THURSDAY, MAY 24

ACTION: Austria beat a local team from Alto Adige 1-0 with disastrous consequences for teenager Thomas Flogel who is carried off with a suspected broken right ankle; manager Josef Hickersberger says Gerald Glatzmayer will be called up as replacement ... Costa Rica draw 2-2 with Internazionale reserves ... Brazil crush local team Gubbio 14-1 in Perugia; a 4,500 crowd see four goals for Silas and three for Bebeto ... in Los Angeles Mexico beat Real Madrid 3-1 in the Cup of Nations final. In the third-place play-off Koln beat the Central American XI 5-1.

WORLD CUP: Holland boss Beenhakker names his 22; John Bosman and defender Edward Sturing are the last two to be dropped ... a storm breaks over England as manager Bobby Robson admits at a hastily-summoned media conference that he will, after all, be resigning after the finals to take over PSV.

Walter Meeuws.

BELGIUM: Dismissed national manager Walter Meeuws is appointed new coach by first division Saint-Truiden.

FRANCE: A goal from controversial Eric Cantona lifts Montpellier into the French cup final thanks to a 1-0 victory over Saint-Etienne.

REP. IRELAND: A burgeoning row over World Cup bonuses is resolved with a back-dated pay rise.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA president Lennart Johansson is at it again. Now he says English clubs could soon be back in Europe, but not Liverpool. All depends on the behaviour of England fans at the World Cup finals.

YUGOSLAVIA: Dinamo Zagreb's Zvonimir Boban is suspended for nine months for kicking a policeman in the Zagreb hooligan riot ... Dragoslav Sekularac quits as coach of double-winners Red Star. He says he has lost his motivation after being the subject of a seven-game European touchline ban for his behaviour at a UEFA Cup-tie last December.

FRIDAY, MAY 25

WORLD CUP: Franz Beckenbauer criticises several of his players, sweeper Augenthaler among them, who have publicly questioned his team selection for the next day's match against Czechoslovakia ... England arrive in Sardinia ... Scotland winger Davie Cooper is reported doubtful for Italy because of tendinitis ... para-military police units sent to Sardinia on anti-hooligan duty protest at being housed in substandard accommodation.

FRANCE: Relegated Racing Paris achieve a major shock in the second cup semi-final by defeating holders and champions Marseille 3-2. Racing, twice behind, score twice in the last ten minutes through Milojevic and Abdeljalil Aid.

SATURDAY, MAY 26

ACTION: In World Cup warm-up action Belgium draw 2-2 with Rumania, Egypt draw 1-1 with Colombia, West Germany beat Czechoslovakia 1-0 and Yugoslavia lose 1-0 at home to Spain.

WORLD CUP: Argentina name their 22, dropping angry goalkeeper Luis Islas, who had refused to be No 2 to Pumpido.

CHILE: Life-ban goalkeeper Roberto Rojas admits, in a newspaper interview, that he cut himself in the notorious World Cup incident against Brazil in Rio last year.

EAST GERMANY: In a thrilling last-day climax to the league, Dynamo Dresden pip Karl-Marx-Stadt to the championship on goal difference. Dresden win 3-1 at home to Lok Leipzig while KMS win only 1-0 at home to Magdeburg – who had started the match level on points with Dresden and Karl-Marx-Stadt.

FRANCE: Saint-Etienne dismiss coach Robert Herbin.

RUMANIA: Steaua confirm that Gheorghe Hagi will join Real Madrid after the World Cup finals.

SUNDAY, MAY 27

ACTION: More World Cup warm-up work, with Sweden thrashing Finland 6-0 and the Irish Republic drawing 0-0 in Turkey.

WORLD CUP: Scotland call up Norwich striker Robert Fleck to replace injured veteran winger Davie Cooper ... Italy federation officials cold-shoulder the Mayor of Florence when he turns up at the Coverciano training camp in a peace mission after repeated trouble from local Fiorentina fans.

CHILE: National team defender Fernando Astengo and former aides Alejandro Kock and Nelson Maldonaldo deny Roberto Rojas's allegations that they were involved in the Rio scandal cover-up.

GREECE: Panathinaikos draw 2-2 with PAOK on the last day of the season to finish three points clear of runners-up AEK and seven points ahead of the third-placed Salonika club.

PORTUGAL: Amadora and Farense draw 1-1 in the cup final after extra time to force a June 3 replay.

MONDAY, MAY 28

ACTION: Hungary beat the United Arab Emirates 3-0 in Nimes; Scotland scrape a 2-1 win in Malta; and Brazil lose a training match 1-0 to an Umbria XI in Terni – a match which sees Romario make his first appearance (albeit as a late substitute) since his leg break.

WORLD CUP: Egypt, South Korea and Romania name their squads of 22 ... the Swedish police announce plans to send eight observers to the finals to prepare security plans for the 1992 European championship ... Uruguayan midfielder Santiago Ostolaza is ruled out for ten days with a pulled muscle, but is to be kept in the World Cup squad. Midfielder Edison Suarez is omitted.

ALBANIA: The entire 37-strong Albanian party of national team, under-21 squad plus managers and doctors, are arrested at Heathrow Airport en route from Rome bound for Reykjavik. Members of the party are suspected of shop-lifting in the duty-free area but all are released onto their Reykjavik-bound flight without being charged.

BELGIUM: World Cup referee Marcel Van Langenhove denies claims from France that he was bribed to let Benfica beat Marseille in the Champions' Cup semi-finals.

HOLLAND: World Cup forward John Van Loen agrees to transfer from Roda to Anderlecht after the finals.

ISRAEL: The IFA announces international match bans on Shalom Tikva, Eli Ohana and Ronny Rosenthal for periods of between 2 to four years for their refusals to line up against the Soviet Union in a row over insurance. The players are also fined.

SWITZERLAND: Despite having saved Servette from relegation, caretaker coach Ruud Krol is replaced.

TUESDAY, MAY 29

ACTION: England beat Cagliari 6-0 in a training match in Pula.

WORLD CUP: Cameroon name their squad of 22, so do Uruguay, the United Arab Emirates and Scotland ... Belgian veteran Jan Ceulemans threatens to quit the squad after being omitted from the starting line-up in the weekend friendly against Rumania ... the Soviet Union are offered £20,000-a-man to win the World Cup, one of the smallest bonuses on offer.

CHILE: Roberto Rojas says that, after admitting his role in the Rio scandal match, he may seek psychiatric advice.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich buy Denmark's Brian Laudrup for a West German record domestic fee of £2.2million.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

ACTION: Iceland beat Albania 2-0 in the first match to be played in the 1992 European championship qualifiers ... in World Cup warm-up action Austria beat Holland 3-2, Italy draw 0-0 in front of a derisive crowd against Greece, the USA win 4-1 in Liechtenstein and West Germany use 2-1 players to beat Denmark 1-0 in Gelsenkirchen ... the Irish Republic are held 1-1 by Malta in an under-21 match in Ta'Qali.

SWITZERLAND: Grasshoppers beat Lugano 3-0 to pip Lausanne to the league crown. Both finished on 31 points but Grasshoppers took the championship through having amassed more points in the first (autumn) round.

THURSDAY, MAY 31

PORTUGAL: Porto star striker Rui Aguas agrees to transfer back to his old club Benfica. Aguas had scored 17 goals as Porto's top marksman in their 1990 championship triumph.

MONDAY, JUNE 4

WORLD CUP: Brazil midfielder Dunga threatens Fiorentina that if they do not renegotiate his contract now then he will leave when it expires next year ... Scotland confirm on arrival in Italy that Mo Johnston will be fit after all ... West Germany's Jurgen Kohler is injured in training and will miss their first match, against Yugoslavia.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5

ITALY: FIFA's executive committee, meeting in Rome on the eve of the congress, suspend Greece from membership because of a row over the federation's statutes. These lack clauses referring disputes to FIFA which has meant foreign coaches and players being left unprotected in contract disputes. The ban means Greek clubs may not compete in the 1990-91 European club competitions and Greece is ineligible to play in the forthcoming European championship qualifiers. The executive defer a decision on a membership application from Tahiti but confirms a reduction in membership from 166 to 165 because of the merger of the North and South Yemen federations as part of those countries' progress towards political union.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

ACTION: Belgium, in the very last of the formal World Cup warm-up internationals, draw 1-1 in Brussels with Poland ... in Trondheim, Norway lose 2-1 at home in a friendly against Denmark.

WORLD CUP: Italian organising officials deny reports that the new turf in the Stadio Meazza is already dying and that the pitch will prove slippery and treacherous for the opening match ... in Rome, however, holes in the multi-billion-lire new roof at the Stadio Olimpico mean a morning storm floods the press area ... Argentina manager Carlos Bilardo names his team for the Opening Match, surprisingly including Nestor Fabbri (rather than Jose Serrizuela) in defence and Abel Balbo (rather than Claudio Canggia) in attack.

ITALY: FIFA decide to lift the suspension on Greece, giving the federation time to put their house in order. Joao Havelange is re-elected, unopposed, as president, and executive committee changes include the accession of David Will as "British" vice-president following the retirement of long-serving Harry Cavan. FIFA's membership moves back up to 166 after the Tahiti representatives present the necessary documentation.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

WORLD CUP: Italian organising chief Luca di Montezemolo is reported to have turned down an invitation to take up a senior post in the United States' World Cup '94 set-up ... Maradona says he will play the opening match with a special protective shield on an injured toe ... Roberto Baggio, at £7.8million the world's most expensive player, says he is resigned to starting the World Cup on the substitutes' bench.

Flemming Poulsen.

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven agree the £2million sale of Denmark striker Flemming Poulsen to Bologna and hope they may yet persuade the Italians to release the Brazilian, Geovani, on loan in part-exchange.

ITALY: One day before the World Cup finals begin, the Italian domestic season comes to an end: Messina survive in the second division after beating Monaza 1-0 in a relegation play-off ... promoted Torino lose coach Eugenio Fascetti to Verona ... Atalanta president Cesare Bortolotti is killed in a late-night car crash.

SPAIN: Real Madrid agree terms to buy out Bernd Schuster's contract and release him a year early.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

WORLD CUP: At last, the action – with defending title-holders Argentina sensationally beaten 1-0 by Cameroon.

ENGLAND: The World Cup is overshadowed in domestic terms by the Football League's disciplinary relegation of Swindon to the third division – only ten days after they gained a place in the first division for the first time. Cause of such drastic punishment were alleged illegal payments to players.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

WORLD CUP: Italy set off in style with a superbly-crafted 1-0 win over Austria in Rome. Colombia beat the United Arab Emirates 2-0 and the Soviet Union fall by the same score to Romania ... confusion reigns in Sardinia over the number of arrests made following hooligan trouble on Friday night. Police statements vary between two and 30 ... in Milan hospital sources confirm that 14 people, ten of them police, were injured in incidents involving striking and protesting metalworkers ... Uruguay beat Mantova 2-1 in one last private friendly ... the Argentine daily, Clarin, reporting Argentina's defeat by Cameroon, says: "Even 100 victories in a row could not wipe away the memory of such a humiliation."

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

WORLD CUP: The United States are quickly brought down to earth with a 5-1 defeat at the hands of Czechoslovakia in the afternoon game. The evening double-header sees West Germany thrillingly see off Yugoslavia by 4-1 and Brazil labour their way to a 2-1 victory over Sweden ... hooligan trouble is reported from Milan, Verona and Cagliari. Forty hooligans are arrested in the centre of Milan after vicious clashes between West German and Yugoslav fans; three Verona resorts see 15 arrests, mainly Germans again: in Cagliari hundreds of English fans are reported in skirmishes with police.

MONDAY, JUNE 11

WORLD CUP: Costa Rica pull off a major upset by defeating Scotland 1-0; England disappoint in their 1-1 draw with the Irish Republic ... FIFA make the remarkable claim that delegate Adolfo Reginato thought Cardellino did a good job refereeing the Romania v Soviet Union match ... Sweden's experienced Erik Fredriksson is named to control the Argentina v Soviet Union match ... an Italian record 24 million domestic fans watched the victory over Austria on television ... the West German government apologises to the city of Milan for the weekend hooliganism ... the Spanish squad make their peace with the Spanish journalists, who had not been talking to the players (!) after a row over invitations to an official reception on the eve of the finals.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: The death occurs in Prague of Oldrich Nejedly, a star of the Czechoslovak team which finished runners-up at the 1934 World Cup in Italy. Nejedly was 81.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

WORLD CUP: Another African near-upset as Holland are held 1-1 by Egypt. No surprise out of Asia, however, as South Korea lose 2-0 to Belgium ... injured Scotland defender Richard Gough flies home for treatment at Rangers ... the turf from the Stadio Meazza in Milan will, like the Rome Olimpico pitch, be sold off after the finals. Chunks of turf in Milan will be priced at betweeen (pounds) 50 and (pounds) 2,500 ... six West German hooligans are expelled from Italy after court appearances in Milan; an English hooligan is jailed for six months in Sardinia.

PORTUGAL: Benfica star Vitor Paneira is sentenced by a military tribunal to 37 days confined to barracks after being two days' later resuming national service in January. Paneira had presented a medical certificate but the military became suspicious when it was realised he had been playing for Benfica at the time.

SOVIET UNION: The club doctor from Italy's Sampdoria flies to Kiev to examine the damaged knee of World Cup absentee Alexei Mikhailichenko – to check whether Sampdoria should confirm a transfer bid.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

WORLD CUP: Argentina lose goalkeeper Nery Pumpido with a broken leg but beat the Soviet Union 2-0 in Naples; Uruguay and Spain draw 0-0 in Udine ... Milan coach advises Holland star Ruud Gullit to "play more and talk less" ... FIFA apologise to the Czechoslovak delegation for the "incomprehensible" rendering of their national anthem at the match against the United States.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

WORLD CUP: Italy squeeze a 1-0 win over the United States in Rome; Cameroon beat Romania 2-1; Yugoslavia beat Colombia 1-0 ... TV replays that referee Fredriksson was virtually standing next to Maradona when he handled the ball against the Soviet Union.

ITALY: Transfer talks between Juventus and Parma regarding the transfer of Sasha Zavarov break down over the cash share due to his original club, Kiev Dynamo. But Juve defender Pasquale Brino says he is looking forward to moving across the city to join Torino.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

WORLD CUP: West Germany enjoy beating the United Arab Emirates 5-1; Czechoslovakia delight in their 1-0 defeat of Austria which ensures a place in the second round ... FIFA grant two nations permission to replace injured goalkeepers: England send for Dave Beasant to deputise for David Seaman, Argentina will probably call on River Plate's Angel Commizo to replace Pumpido ... Italy's Toto Schillaci has something more to celebrate with the birth of son Mattia ... Swedish referee Fredriksson gets a good report from FIFA's assessor at the Argentina v Soviet Union game ... West German fans in Milan raise a banner in the cathedral square apologising for the vandalism on the previous Sunday ... Soviet defender Vladimir Besonov is banned for one game and fined after his expulsion in Naples.

ITALY: Torino sign Roma's veteran goalkeeper Franco Tancredi.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

WORLD CUP: Brazil struggle to beat Costa Rica 1-0; England and Holland draw 0-0 on a comparatively peaceful evening in Cagliari; Scotland pull back from the brink with a battling 2-1 win over Sweden in Genoa ... Vladimir Besonov (Soviet Union), Lubos Kubik (Czechoslovakia), Andy Brehme (West Germany) and Yousef Husain (UAE) are all suspended for one game by FIFA after having collected two yellow cards in their first two games ... Joel Quiniou, to his publicly expressed dissatisfaction, is selected to referee Italy v Czechoslovakia.

ITALY: Italy midfielder Fernando De Napoli demands the cancellation of his contract with Napoli because of the club's alleged failure to provide him with proper medical advice after injury.

ROMANIA: Sports Minister Cornel Dinu, former international defender, accuses former national boss Mircea Lucescu of having been a prime supporter of the Ceasescu manoeuvring within the country's soccer. In Rome, 35 Romanian fans ask for political exile in Italy in the wake of the new troubles in Bucharest.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

WORLD CUP: In perhaps the best match so far Belgium beat Uruguay despite having Gerets sent off just before half-time; the unadventurous Irish surprise everyone by criticising Egypt as negative after their goalless draw; and Michel scores the first hat-trick of the finals in Spain's 3-1 defeat of South Korea ... Khalil Ibrahim Mubarak of the UAE is told he will receive a Rolls-Royce as bonus for his goal against West Germany ... FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter is the subject of controversy after naming referees Spirin, Agnolin and Fredriksson for particular criticisms in TV interviews for West Germany and then Italy.

MONDAY, JUNE 18

WORLD CUP: The start of the last round of first-stage matches. Cameroon crash 4-0 to the Soviet Union but still top Group B because Romania (placed second) and Argentina (third) draw 1-1 in Naples ... Italy manager Vicini springs a surprise by naming Roberto Baggio to face Czechoslovakia but NOT Vialli. Vicini says Vialli is injured, that Baggio would have played anyway and that Schillaci is, in fact, the real replacement in the line-up to face the Czechoslovaks.

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COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP

The results of all the qualifying games for Italia 90 were published last month. Here is a record of every World Cup-tie prior to this year's tournament.

1930
URUGUAY

All rounds
Qualifying rounds
None held.
Finals (in Uruguay, July 13-30)
First rounds:
Group 1: France-Mexico 4-1; Argentina-France 1-0; Chile-Mexico 3-0; Chile-France 1-0; Argentina-Mexico 6-3; Argentina-Chile 3-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	3	0	0	10	4	6
Chile	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
France	3	1	0	2	4	3	2
Mexico	3	0	0	3	4	13	0

Group 2: Yugoslavia-Brazil 2-1; Yugoslavia-Bolivia 4-0; Brazil-Bolivia 4-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Brazil	2	1	0	1	5	2	2
Bolivia	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

Group 3: Rumania-Peru 3-1; Uruguay-Peru 1-0; Uruguay-Rumania 4-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	5	0	4
Rumania	2	1	0	1	3	5	2
Peru	2	2	0	0	1	4	0

Group 4: United States-Belgium 3-0; US-Paraguay 3-0; Paraguay-Belgium 1-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
United States	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	1	3	2
Belgium	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Semi-finals: Argentina-US 6-1; Uruguay-Yugoslavia 6-1.
Third-place match: Not held.
FINAL – Montevideo/Centenario Uruguay 4 (Dorado 12, Cea 57, Iriarte 68, Castro 89) Argentina 2 (Peucelle 24, Stabile 37)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 90,000. **Ref:** John Langenus (Bel).
Uruguay: Ballestreros – Nasazzi, Mascheroni, Andrade, Gestido, Fernandez, Dorado, Scarone, Castro, Cea, Iriarte. **Manager:** Alberto Suppicci.
Argentina: Botasso – Della Torre, Paternoster, J.Evaristo, Monti, Suarez, Peucelle, Stabile, Ferreyra, M.Evaristo, Varallo. Director/manager: Augusto Rouquette.
Top scorer: Guillermo Stabile (Argentina) 8 goals.
Official aggregate finals attendance: 434,500 (ave 24,139).

1934
ITALY

Qualifying rounds:

Group 1: 1st rd: Haiti-Cuba 1-3, 0-6, Haiti-Cuba 1-1. 2nd rd: Mexico-Cuba 3-2, 5-0, 4-1. Gp final (in Italy): US-Mexico 4-2.
Group 2: Peru withdrew v Brazil.
Group 3: Argentina only entrants.
Group 4: Egypt-Palestine 7-1, 4-1.
Group 5: Sweden-Estonia 6-2; Lithuania-Sweden 0-2.
Group 6: Spain-Portugal 9-0, 2-1.
Group 7: Italy-Greece 4-0.
Group 8: Bulgaria-Hungary 1-4; Austria-Bulgaria 6-1; Hungary-Bulgaria (in Vienna) 4-1.
Group 9: Poland-Czechoslovakia 1-2.
Group 10: Yugoslavia-Switzerland 2-2; Switzerland-Rumania 2-2; Rumania-Yugoslavia 2-1.
Group 11: Rep.Ireland-Belgium 4-4; Holland-Rep.Ireland 5-2; Belgium-Holland 2-4.
Group 12: Luxembourg-Germany 1-9; Luxembourg-France 1-6 (Germany and France qual.for finals).
The Finals (in Italy, May 27 to June 10): 1st rnd: Italy-United States 7-1; Czechoslovakia-Rumania 2-1; Germany-Belgium 5-2; Austria-France 3-2; Spain-Brazil 3-1; Switzerland-Holland 3-2; Sweden-Argentina 3-2; Hungary-Egypt 4-2.
Quarter-finals: Germany-Sweden 2-1; Austria-Hungary 2-1; Czechoslovakia-Switzerland 3-2; Italy-Spain 1-1 aet, 1-0.
Semi-finals: Czechoslovakia-Germany 3-1; Italy-Austria 1-0.
Third-place match: Germany-Austria 3-2.
FINAL (Rome)
Italy 2 (Orsi 81, Schiavio 95)
Czechoslovakia 1 (Puc 71)
HT: 0-0. 90min: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Eklind (Swe). After extra time.
Italy: Combi – Monzeglio, Allemandi, Ferraris IV, Monti, Bertolini, Guaita, Meazza, Schiavio, Ferrari, Orsi.
Manager: Vittorio Pozzo.
Czechoslovakia: Planicka – Ctyrocky, Zenizek, Kostalek, Cambal, Krcil, Junek, Svoboda, Sobotka, Nejedly, Puc.
Secretary/manager: C.F.C. Petru.
Top scorer: Oldrich Nejedly (Czechoslovakia) 5 goals.
Official aggregate finals attendance: 395,000 (ave 23,235).

1938
FRANCE

Qualifying rounds:

Europe – Group 1 (British home championship): N. Ireland-Scotland 2-8; Wales-England 1-4; Scotland-Wales 2-0; England-N. Ireland 9-2; Wales-N. Ireland 0-0; Scotland-England 0-1 (England and Scotland qual.).
Group 2: Turkey-Syria 7-0.
Group 3: 1st rnd: Yugoslavia-Israel 6-0, 5-2. 2nd rnd: Yugoslavia-France 1-1, 1-1, 3-2.
Group 4: Switzerland-Luxembourg 5-2, 3-2.
Group 5: Sweden-Rep. Ireland 3-1; Rep. Ireland-Finland 3-0; Sweden-Finland 8-1; Finland-Rep. Ireland 1-1; Rep. Ireland-Sweden 1-3 (Sweden qual).
Group 6: Spain-Portugal 5-1, 2-2.
South America – Group 7: Bolivia and Chile qualified after Argentina withdrew; initial matches played expunged from official record.
Group 8: Uruguay and Paraguay qualified after Ecuador and Peru withdrew.
Central/North America – Group 9: Mexico-United States 6-0; Mexico-Cuba 2-0; US-Cuba 1-1; Mexico-US 6-2; US-Cuba 5-2; Mexico-Cuba 3-0 (Mexico and US qual).
Asia – Group 10: Burma and India both withdrew.
The finals (in Brazil, June 24 to July 16): Note: Scotland and Turkey both withdrew before the finals.
Group 1: Brazil-Mexico 4-0; Yugoslavia-Switzerland 3-0; Yugoslavia-Mexico 4-1; Brazil-Switzerland 2-2; Brazil-Yugoslavia 2-0; Switzerland-Mexico 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	8	2	5
Yugoslavia	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	4	6	3
Mexico	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Group 2: Spain-US 3-1; England-Chile 2-0; US-England 1-0; Spain-Chile 2-0; Spain-England 1-0; Chile-US 5-2.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	6	1	6
England	3	1	0	2	2	2	2
Chile	3	1	0	2	5	6	2
United States	3	1	0	2	4	8	2

Group 3: Sweden-Italy 3-2; Sweden-Paraguay 2-2; Italy-Paraguay 2-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
Italy	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Paraguay	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Quarter-finals: Sweden-Cuba 8-0; Hungary-Switzerland 2-0; Italy-France 3-1; Brazil-Czechoslovakia 1-1aet, 2-1.
Semi-finals: Italy-Brazil 2-1; Hungary-Sweden 5-1.
Third-place match: Brazil-Sweden 4-2.
THE FINAL (Paris/Colombes)
Italy 4 (Colaussi 5 and 35, Piola 16 and 82)
Hungary 2 (Titkos 7, Sarosi 70)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Capdeville (Fr).
Italy: Olivieri – Foni, Rava, Serantoni, Andreolo, Locatelli, Biavati, Meazza, Piola, Ferrari, Colaussi.
Manager: Vittorio Pozzo.
Hungary: Szabo – Polgar, Biro, Szalay, Szucs, Lazar, Sas, Vincze, Sarosi, Zsengeller, Titkos. Manager: Karoly Dietz.
Top scorer: Leonidas (Brazil) 7 goals.
Official aggregate finals attendance: 483,000 (ave 26,833).

1950
BRAZIL

Qualifying rounds:

Europe – Group 1 (British home championship): N. Ireland-Scotland 2-8; Wales-England 1-4; Scotland-Wales 2-0; England-N. Ireland 9-2; Wales-N. Ireland 0-0; Scotland-England 0-1 (England and Scotland qual.).
Group 2: Turkey-Syria 7-0.
Group 3: 1st rnd: Yugoslavia-Israel 6-0, 5-2. 2nd rnd: Yugoslavia-France 1-1, 1-1, 3-2.
Group 4: Switzerland-Luxembourg 5-2, 3-2.
Group 5: Sweden-Rep. Ireland 3-1; Rep. Ireland-Finland 3-0; Sweden-Finland 8-1; Finland-Rep. Ireland 1-1; Rep. Ireland-Sweden 1-3 (Sweden qual).
Group 6: Spain-Portugal 5-1, 2-2.
South America – Group 7: Bolivia and Chile qualified after Argentina withdrew; initial matches played expunged from official record.
Group 8: Uruguay and Paraguay qualified after Ecuador and Peru withdrew.
Central/North America – Group 9: Mexico-United States 6-0; Mexico-Cuba 2-0; US-Cuba 1-1; Mexico-US 6-2; US-Cuba 5-2; Mexico-Cuba 3-0 (Mexico and US qual).
Asia – Group 10: Burma and India both withdrew.
The finals (in Brazil, June 24 to July 16): Note: Scotland and Turkey both withdrew before the finals.
Group 1: Brazil-Mexico 4-0; Yugoslavia-Switzerland 3-0; Yugoslavia-Mexico 4-1; Brazil-Switzerland 2-2; Brazil-Yugoslavia 2-0; Switzerland-Mexico 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	8	2	5
Yugoslavia	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
Switzerland	3	1	1	1	4	6	3
Mexico	3	0	0	3	2	10	0

Group 2: Spain-US 3-1; England-Chile 2-0; US-England 1-0; Spain-Chile 2-0; Spain-England 1-0; Chile-US 5-2.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	6	1	6
England	3	1	0	2	2	2	2
Chile	3	1	0	2	5	6	2
United States	3	1	0	2	4	8	2

Group 3: Sweden-Italy 3-2; Sweden-Paraguay 2-2; Italy-Paraguay 2-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
Italy	2	1	0	1	4	3	2
Paraguay	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Quarter-finals: Sweden-Cuba 8-0; Hungary-Switzerland 2-0; Italy-France 3-1; Brazil-Czechoslovakia 1-1aet, 2-1.
Semi-finals: Italy-Brazil 2-1; Hungary-Sweden 5-1.
Third-place match: Brazil-Sweden 4-2.
THE FINAL (Paris/Colombes)
Italy 4 (Colaussi 5 and 35, Piola 16 and 82)
Hungary 2 (Titkos 7, Sarosi 70)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Capdeville (Fr).
Italy: Olivieri – Foni, Rava, Serantoni, Andreolo, Locatelli, Biavati, Meazza, Piola, Ferrari, Colaussi.
Manager: Vittorio Pozzo.
Hungary: Szabo – Polgar, Biro, Szalay, Szucs, Lazar, Sas, Vincze, Sarosi, Zsengeller, Titkos. Manager: Karoly Dietz.
Top scorer: Leonidas (Brazil) 7 goals.
Official aggregate finals attendance: 483,000 (ave 26,833).

Brazil on the attack in the 1950 World Cup Final against Uruguay.

Group 4: Uruguay-Bolivia 8-0.
Final round: Uruguay-Spain 2-2; Brazil-Sweden 7-1; Brazil-Spain 6-1; Uruguay-Sweden 3-2; Sweden-Spain 3-1; Uruguay-Brazil 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	3	2	1	0	7	5	5
Brazil	3	2	0	1	14	8	4
Sweden	3	1	0	2	6	11	2
Spain	3	0	1	2	4	11	1

THE FINAL (Rio de Janeiro/Maracana)
Uruguay 2 (Schiaffino 70, Ghiggia 83)
Brazil 1 (Friaca 47)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 199,850. **Ref:** George Reader (Eng)
Uruguay: Maspoli – M.Gonzales, Tejera, Gambetta, Varela, Andrade, Ghiggia, Perez, Miguez, Schiaffino, Moran. Manager: Juan Lopez.
Brazil: Barbosa – Augusto, Juvenal, Bauer, Danilo, Bigode, Friaca, Zizinho, Ademir, Jair, Chico.
Manager: Flavio Costa.
Top scorer: Ademir de Menezes (Brazil) 7 goals.
Official aggregate finals attendance: 1,337,000 (ave 60,772).

1954
SWITZERLAND

Qualifying rounds:

Europe – Group 1: Norway-Saar 2-3; Norway-West Germany 1-1; West Germany-Saar 3-0; Saar-Norway 0-0; West Germany-Norway 5-1; Saar-West Germany 1-3 (West Germany qual.).
Group 2: Finland-Belgium 2-4; Sweden-Belgium 2-3; Finland-Sweden 3-3; Sweden-Finland 4-0; Belgium-Finland 2-2; Belgium-Sweden 2-0 (Belgium qual.).
Group 3 (British home championship): N. Ireland-Scotland 1-3; Wales-England 1-4; Scotland-Wales 3-3; England-N. Ireland 3-1; Wales-N.Ireland 1-2; Scotland-England 2-4 (England and Scotland qual.).
Group 4: Luxembourg-France 1-6; Rep. Ireland-France 3-5; Rep.Ireland-Luxembourg 4-1; France-Rep. Ireland 1-0; France-Luxembourg 8-0; Luxembourg-Rep. Ireland 0-1 (France qual.).
Group 5: Austria-Portugal 9-1, 0-0 (Austria qual.).
Group 6: Spain-Turkey 4-1, 0-1, 2-2 (play-off in Rome; Turkey qual.on drawing of lots).
Group 7: Poland withdrew v Hungary.
Group 8: Czechoslovakia-Rumania 2-0; Rumania-Bulgaria 3-1; Bulgaria-Czechoslovakia 1-2; Bulgaria-Rumania 1-2; Rumania-Czechoslovakia 0-1; Czechoslovakia-Bulgaria 0-0 (Czechoslovakia qual.).
Group 9: Egypt-Italy 1-2. 1-5 (Italy qual.).
Group 10: Yugoslavia-Greece 1-0; Greece-Israel 1-0; Yugoslavia-Israel 1-0; Israel-Greece 0-2; Israel-Yugoslavia 0-1; Greece-Yugoslavia 0-1 (Yugoslavia qual.).
Central/North America: Mexico-Haiti 8-0; Haiti-Mexico 0-4; Mexico-United States 3-1; US-Haiti 3-2; Haiti-US 0-3; US-Mexico 0-4 (in Mexico City). (Mexico qual.).
South America – Group 12: Paraguay-Chile 4-0; Chile-Paraguay 1-3; Chile-Brazil 0-2; Paraguay-Brazil 0-1; Brazil-Chile 1-0; Brazil-Paraguay 4-1 (Brazil qual.).
Asia – Group 13: Japan-South Korea 1-5, 2-2 (S.Korea qual.).
The finals (in Switzerland, June 16 to July 4): Group 1: Yugoslavia-France 1-0; Brazil-Mexico 5-0; France-Mexico 3-2; Brazil-Yugoslavia 1-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	1	1	0	6	1	3
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	2	1	3
France	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Mexico	2	0	0	2	2	8	0

Group 2: Hungary-South Korea 9-0; West Germany-Turkey 4-1; Hungary-West Germany 8-3; Turkey-S.Korea 7-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
West Germany	2	1	0	1	7	9	2
Turkey	2	1	0	1	8	4	2
South Korea	2	0	0	2	0	16	0

Play-off for second place: West Germany-Turkey 7-2.
Group 3: Austria-Scotland 1-0; Uruguay-Czechoslovakia 2-0; Austria-Czechoslovakia 5-0; Uruguay-Scotland 7-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	2	2	0	0	9	0	4
Austria	2	2	0	0	6	0	4
Czechoslovakia	2	0	0	2	0	7	0
Scotland	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

Group 4: England-Belgium 4-4; Switzerland-Italy 2-1; England-Switzerland 2-0; Italy-Belgium 4-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	2	1	1	0	6	4	3
Switzerland	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Italy	2	1	0	1	5	3	2
Belgium	2	0	1	1	5	8	1

Play-off for second place: Switzerland-Italy 4-1.
Quarter-finals: Austria-Switzerland 7-5; Uruguay-England 4-2; West Germany-Yugoslavia 2-0; Hungary-Brazil 4-2.
Semi-finals: West Germany-Austria 6-1; Hungary-Uruguay 4-2 aet.
Third-place match: Austria-Uruguay 3-1.

THE FINAL (Bern/Wankdorf)
West Germany 3 (Morlock 10, Rahn 16, 85)
Hungary 2 (Puskas 5, Czibor 7)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Bill Ling (Eng)
West Germany: Turek – Posipal, Kohlmeyer, Eckel, Liebrich, Mai, Rahn, Morlock, O.Walter, F.Walter, Schfer.
Manager: Sepp Herberger.
Hungary: Grosics – Buzansky, Lantos, Bozsik, Lorant, Zakarias, Czibor, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Puskas, Toth. Manager: Guzstav Sebes.
Top scorer: Sandor Kocsis (Hungary) 11 goals.
Official aggregate finals attendance: 943,000 (ave 36,269).

1958
SWEDEN

Qualifying rounds:

Europe – Group 1: Rep. Ireland-Denmark 2-1; England-Denmark 5-2; England-Rep. Ireland 5-1; Denmark-England 1-4; Rep. Ireland-England 1-1; Denmark-Rep. Ireland 0-2 (England qual).
Group 2: France-Belgium 6-3; Freance-Iceland 8-0; Belgium-Iceland 8-3; Iceland-France 1-5; Iceland-Belgium 2-5; Belgium-France 0-0 (France qual).
Group 3: Norway-Bulgaria 1-2; Hungary-Bulgaria 4-1; Hungary-Norway 5-0; Bulgaria-Hungary 1-2; Bulgaria-Norway 7-0; Norway-Hungary 2-1 (Hungary qual).
Group 4: Czechoslovakia-Wales 2-0; East Germany-Wales 2-1; Wales-Czechoslovakia 1-0; Czechoslovakia-E. Germany 3-1; Wales-E.Germany 4-1; E.Germany-Czechoslovakia 1-4 (Czechoslovakia qual).
Group 5: Austria-Luxembourg 7-0; Holland-Luxembourg 4-1; Austria-Holland 3-2; Holland-Austria 1-1; Luxembourg-Austria 0-3; Holland-Luxembourg 5-2 (Austria qual).
Group 6: Sov.Union-Poland 3-0; Finland-Poland 1-3; Sov.Union-Finland 2-1; Finland-Sov.Union 0-10; Poland-Sov.Union 2-1; Poland-Finland 4-0.
Play-off: Sov. Union-Poland 3-1 (Sov. Union qual).
Group 7: Greece-Yugoslavia 0-0; Greece-Rumania 1-2; Rumania-Yugoslavia 1-1; Rumania-Greece 3-0; Yugoslavia-Greece 4-1; Yugoslavia-Rumania 2-0 (Yugoslavia qual).
Group 8: Portugal-N. Ireland 1-1; Italy-N. Ireland 1-0; N. Ireland-Portugal 3-0; Portugal-Italy 3-0; Italy-Portugal 3-0; N. Ireland-Italy 2-1 (N. Ireland qual).
Group 9: Spain-Switzerland 2-2; Scotland-Spain 4-2; Switzerland-Scotland 1-2; Spain-Scotland 4-1; Scotland-Switzerland 3-2; Switzerland-Spain 1-4 (Scotland qual).
South America – Group 1: Peru-Brazil 1-1, 0-1 (Brazil qual).
Group 2: Chile-Bolivia 2-1; Bolivia-Chile 3-0; Bolivia-Argentina 2-0; Chile-Argentina 0-2; Argentina-Chile 4-0; Argentina-Bolivia 4-0 (Argentina qual).
Group 3: Colombia-Uruguay 1-1; Colombia-Paraguay 2-3; Uruguay-Colombia 1-0; Paraguay-Colombia 3-0; Paraguay-Uruguay 5-0; Uruguay-Paraguay 2-0 (Paraguay qual).
Central/North America – Plm gp 1: Guatemala-Costa Rica 2-6; Costa Rica-Guatemala 3-1; Costa Rica-Curacao 4-0; Guatemala-Curacao 1-3; Curacao-Costa Rica 1-2; Curacao-Guatemala 3-1. **Plm gp 2:** Mexico-United States 6-0; US-Mexico 2-7; Canada-US 5-1; Mexico-Canada 3-0; Mexico-Canada 2-0; US-Canada 2-3.
Group final: Mexico-Costa Rica 2-0, 1-1 (Mexico qual).
Africa/Asia – Plm gp 1: Indonesia-Taiwan 2-0, 3-4, 0-0 (Indonesia qual for group final). **Plm gp 2:** Turkey withdrew v Israel. **Plm gp 3:** Cyprus withdrew v Egypt. **Plm gp 4:** Sudan-Syria 1-0, 1-1.
Group finals: Indonesia, Egypt and Sudan withdrew v Israel. Wales were European 'lucky losers' drawn to play Israel. Results: Israel-Wales 0-2, 0-2 (Wales qual).
The finals (in Sweden, June 8 to June 28) Group 1: West Germany-Argentina 3-1; N. Ireland-Czechoslovakia 1-0; West Germany-Czechoslovakia 2-2; Argentina-N. Ireland 3-1; West Germany-N. Ireland 2-2; Czechoslovakia-Argentina 6-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	3	1	2	0	7	5	4
N. Ireland	3	1	1	1	4	5	3
Czechoslovakia	3	1	1	1	8	4	3
Argentina	3	1	0	2	5	10	2

Play-off for second place: N. Ireland-Czechoslovakia 2-1aet.
Group 2: France-Paraguay 7-3; Yugoslavia-Scotland 1-1; Yugoslavia-France 3-2; Paraguay-Scotland 3-2; France-Scotland 2-1; Yugoslavia-Paraguay 3-3.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	0	1	11	7	4
Yugoslavia	3	1	2	0	7	6	4
Paraguay	3	1	1	1	9	12	3
Scotland	3	0	1	2	4	6	1

Group 3: Sweden-Mexico 3-0; Hungary-Wales 1-1; Wales-Mexico 1-1; Sweden-Hungary 2-1; Sweden-Wales 0-0; Hungary-Mexico 4-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	3	2	1	0	5	1	5
Wales	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Hungary	3	1	1	1	6	3	3
Mexico	3	0	1	2	1	8	1

Play-off for second place: Wales-Hungary 2-1.
Group 4: England-Sov. Union 2-2; Brazil-Austria 3-0; England-Brazil 0-0; Sov. Union-Austria 2-0; Brazil-Sov.Union 2-0; England-Austria 2-2.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	5	0	5
Sov. Union	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
England	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Austria	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

Play-off for second place: Sov. Union-England 1-0.
Quarter-finals: France-N. Ireland 4-0; Sweden-Sov. Union 2-0; West Germany-Yugoslavia 1-0; Brazil-Wales 1-0.
Semi-finals: Brazil-France 5-2; Sweden-West Germany 3-1.
Third-place match: France-West Germany 6-3.

THE FINAL (Stockholm/Rasunda)
Brazil 5 (Vava 9, 31, Pele 55, 89, Zagalo 70)
Sweden 2 (Liedholm 4, Simonsson 80)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 49,737. **Ref:** Guigue (Fr)
Brazil: Gilmar – Djalma Santos, Bellini, Orlando, Nilton Santos – Zito, Didi – Garrincha, Vava, Pele, Zagalo. Manager: Vicente Feola.
Sweden: Svensson – Bergmark, Gustavsson, Axbom – Borjessonm, Parling – Hamrin, Gren, Simonsson, Liedholm, Skoglund.
Manager: George Raynor.
Top scorer: Just Fontaine (France) 13 goals.
Official aggregate finals attendance: 868,000 (ave 24,800).

Captain Bobby Moore after England's 1966 triumph.

1962
CHILE

Qualifying rounds:
Europe – Group 1: Sweden-Belgium 2-0; Belgium-Switzerland 2-4; Switzerland-Belgium 2-1; Sweden-Switzerland 4-0; Belgium-Sweden 0-2; Switzerland-Sweden 3-2.
Play-off (in West Berlin): Switzerland-Sweden 2-1.
Group 2: Finland-France 1-2; France-Bulgaria 3-0; Finland-Bulgaria 0-2, France-Finland 5-1; Bulgaria-Finland 3-1; Bulgaria-France 1-0.
Play-off (in Milan): Bulgaria-France 1-0.
Group 3: N. Ireland-West Germany 3-4; Greece-West Germany 0-3; Greece-N. Ireland 2-1; West Germany-N. Ireland 2-1; N. Ireland-Greece 2-0; West Germany-Greece 2-1 (West Germany qual).
Group 4: Hungary-East Germany 2-0; Holland-Hungary 0-3; East Germany-Holland 1-1; East Germany-Hungary 2-3; Hungary-Holland 3-3. Holland v East Germany not played (Hungary qual).
Group 5: Norway-Turkey 0-1; Sov. Union-Turkey 1-0; Sov. Union-Norway 5-2; Norway-Sov. Union 0-3; Turkey-Norway 2-1; Turkey-Sov. Union 1-2 (Sov.Union qual).
Group 6: Luxembourg-England 0-9; Portugal-Luxembourg 6-0; Portugal-England 1-1; England-Luxembourg 4-1; Luxembourg-Portugal 4-2; England-Portugal 2-0 (England qual).
Group 7: 1st rnd: Cyprus-Israel 1-1, 1-6. **2nd rnd:** Israel-Ethiopia 1-0, 3-2. **3rd rnd:** Rumania withdrew v Italy. **Final rnd:** Israel-Italy 2-4, 0-6 (Italy qual).
Group 8: Scotland-Rep. Ireland 4-1; Rep. Ireland-Scotland 0-3; Czechoslovakia-Scotland 4-0; Scotland-Czechoslovakia 3-2; Rep. Ireland-Czechoslovakia 1-3; Czechoslovakia-Rep. Ireland 7-1.
Play-off (in Brussels): Czechoslovakia-Scotland 4-2 (Czechoslovakia qual).
Europe/Africa – Group 9: 1st rnd: Morocco-Tunisia 2-1, 1-2, 1-1 (Morocco qual for next rnd on toss); Ghana-Nigeria 4-1, 2-2. **2nd rnd:** Ghana-Morocco 0-0, 0-1; Wales-Spain 1-2, 1-1. **Final rnd:** Morocco-Spain 0-1, 2-3 (Spain qual).
Europe/Asia – Group 10: 1st rnd: S.Korea-Japan 2-1, 2-0; Yugoslavia-Poland 2-1, 1-1. **Final rnd:** Yugoslavia-S. Korea 5-1, 3-1 (Yugoslavia qual).
South/Central/North America: Plm 1st rnd: United States-Mexico 3-3, 0-3. **Plm 2nd rnd:** Costa Rica-Guatemala 3-2; Guatemala-Costa Rica 4-4; Honduras-Costa Rica 2-1; Costa Rica-Honduras 5-0; Honduras-Guatemala 1-1; Guatemala-Honduras abandoned.
Play-off (in Guatemala): Costa Rica 1, Honduras 0. **Plm 3rd rnd:** Surinam-Netherlands Antilles 1-2, 0-0. **Final rnd:** Costa Rica-Mexico 1-0; Costa Rica-Neth. Antilles 6-0; Mexico-Neth. Antilles 7-0; Mexico-Costa Rica 4-1; Neth. Antilles-Costa Rica 2-0; Neth. Antilles-Mexico 0-0.
Final qual. play-off: Mexico-Paraguay 1-0, 0-0 (Mexico qual).
South America – Group 1: Ecuador-Argentina 3-6, 0-5 (Argentina qual).
Group 2: Bolivia-Uruguay 1-1, 1-2 (Uruguay qual).
Group 3: Colombia-Peru 1-0, 1-1 (Colombia qual).
The finals (in Chile, May 30 to June 17) Group 1: Uruguay-Colombia 2-1; Sov. Union-Yugoslavia 2-0; Yugoslavia-Uruguay 3-1; Sov. Union-Colombia 4-4; Sov. Union-Uruguay 2-1; Yugoslavia-Colombia 5-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sov. Union	3	2	1	0	8	5	5
Yugoslavia	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
Uruguay	3	1	0	2	4	6	2
Colombia	3	0	1	2	5	11	1

Group 2: Chile-Switzerland 3-1; West Germany-Italy 0-0; Chile-Italy 2-0; West Germany-Switzerland 2-1; West Germany-Chile 2-0; Italy-Switzerland 3-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
Chile	3	2	0	1	5	3	4
Italy	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Switzerland	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

Group 3: Brazil-Mexico 2-0; Czechoslovakia-Spain 1-0; Brazil-Czechoslovakia 0-0; Spain-Mexico 1-0; Brazil-Spain 2-1; Mexico-Czechoslovakia 3-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
Czechoslovakia	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Mexico	3	1	0	2	3	4	2
Spain	3	1	0	2	2	3	2

Group 4: Argentina-Bulgaria 1-0; Hungary-England 2-1; England-Argentina 3-1; Hungary-Bulgaria 6-1; Argentina-Hungary 0-0; England-Bulgaria 0-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	3	2	1	0	8	2	5
England	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
Argentina	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Bulgaria	3	0	1	2	1	7	1

Quarter-finals: Yugoslavia-West Germany 1-0; Brazil-England 3-1; Chile-Sov. Union 2-1; Czechoslovakia-Hungary 1-0.
Semi-finals: Brazil-Chile 4-2; Czechoslovakia-Yugoslavia 3-1.
Third-place match: Chile-Yugoslavia 1-0.

THE FINAL (Santiago/Estadio Nacional)
Brazil 3 (Amarildo 17, Zito 68, Vava 77)
Czechoslovakia 1 (Masopust 15)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 68,679. **Ref:** Latyshev (Sov.Union).
Brazil: Gilmar – Djalma Santos, Mauro, Zozimo, Nilton Santos – Zito, Didi, Zagalo – Garrincha, Vava, Amarildo. Manager: Aimore Moreira.
Czechoslovakia: Schroiff

COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP

CONTINUED

Group 7: Austria-Cyprus 7-1; Austria-West Germany 0-2; Scotland-Austria 2-1; Cyprus-West Germany 0-1; Cyprus-Scotland 0-5; Scotland-West Germany 1-1; Cyprus-Austria 1-2; West Germany-Austria 1-0; Scotland-Cyprus 8-0; West Germany-Cyprus 12-0; West Germany-Scotland 3-2; Austria-Scotland 2-0 (West Germany qual).

Group 8: Luxembourg-Holland 0-2; Bulgaria-Holland 2-0; Holland-Luxembourg 4-0; Poland-Luxembourg 8-1; Bulgaria-Luxembourg 2-1; Holland-Poland 1-0; Bulgaria-Poland 4-1; Poland-Holland 2-1; Luxembourg-Poland 1-5; Holland-Bulgaria 1-1; Poland-Bulgaria 3-0; Luxembourg-Bulgaria 1-3 (Bulgaria qual).

Group 9: England (holders, seeded direct to finals).

South America – Group 10: Bolivia-Argentina 3-1; Peru-Argentina 1-0; Bolivia-Peru 2-1; Peru-Bolivia 3-0; Argentina-Bolivia 1-0; Argentina-Peru 2-2 (Peru qual).

Group 11: Colombia-Venezuela 3-0; Venezuela-Colombia 1-1; Colombia-Brazil 0-2; Venezuela-Paraguay 0-2; Colombia-Paraguay 0-1; Venezuela-Brazil 0-5; Paraguay-Brazil 0-3; Brazil-Colombia 6-2; Paraguay-Venezuela 1-0; Brazil-Venezuela 6-0; Paraguay-Colombia 2-1; Brazil-Paraguay 1-0 (Brazil qual).

Group 12: Ecuador-Uruguay 0-2; Chile-Uruguay 0-0; Uruguay-Ecuador 1-0; Chile-Ecuador 4-1; Ecuador-Chile 1-1; Uruguay-Chile 2-0 (Uruguay qual).

North/Central America – Group 13, 1st rnd: Plm gp A: Costa Rica-Jamaica 3-0; Jamaica-Costa Rica 1-3; Honduras-Jamaica 3-1; Jamaica-Honduras 0-2; Honduras-Costa Rica 1-0; Costa Rica-Honduras 1-1. **Plm gp B;** Guatemala-Trinidad 4-0; Trinidad-Guatemala 0-0; Trinidad-Haiti 0-4; Haiti-Trinidad 2-4; Haiti-Guatemala 2-0; Guatemala-Haiti 1-1. **Plm gp C:** Surinam-Neth. Antilles 6-0; El Salvador-Surinam 6-0; Neth. Antilles-Surinam 2-0; El Salvador-Neth. Antilles 1-0; Neth. Antilles-El Salvador 1-2; Surinam-El Salvador 4-1. **Plm gp D;** Canada-Bermuda 4-0; Canada-United States 4-2; Bermuda-Canada 0-0; US-Canada 1-0; US-Bermuda 6-2; Bermuda-US 0-2. **2nd rnd:** Haiti-US 2-0, 1-0; Honduras-El Salvador 1-0, 0-3, 2-3 (in Mexico City). **Final rnd:** Haiti-El Salvador 1-2, 3-0, 0-1 (in Jamaica).

Group 14: Mexico (hosts, seede direct to finals).

Asia/Oceania – Group 15, 1st rnd: Plm gp A: Australia-Japan 3-1; South Korea-Japan 2-2; Australia-S.Korea 2-1; Japan-Australia 1-1; S.Korea-Japan 2-0; S.Korea-Australia 1-1. **Plm gp B:** (N. Korea withdrew): Israel-New Zealand 4-0, 2-0. **2nd rnd:** Australia-Rhodesia 1-1, 1-0, 3-1.

Group final: Israel-Australia 1-0, 1-1 (Israel qual).

Africa – 1st rnd: Algeria-Tunisia 1-2, 0-0; Morocco-Senegal 1-0, 1-2, 2-0 (play-off in Las Palmas); Libya-Ethiopia 2-0, 1-5; Zambia-Sudan 4-2, 2-4 (Sudan qual. on having scored more goals in return match); Nigeria-Cameroon 1-1, 3-2; Ghana bye. **2nd rnd:** Tunisia-Morocco 0-0, 0-0, 2-2 (Morocco on toss of coin after play-off in Marseille); Ethiopia-Sudan 1-1, 1-3; Nigeria-Ghana 2-1, 1-1. **Final rnd:** Nigeria-Sudan 2-2; Morocco-Nigeria 2-1; Sudan-Nigeria 3-3; Sudan-Morocco 0-0; Morocco-Sudan 3-0; Nigeria-Morocco 1-0 (Morocco qual).

The finals (in Mexico, May 31 to June 21):

Group 1: Mexico-Sov. Union 0-0; Belgium-El Salvador 3-0; Sov. Union-Belgium 4-1; Mexico-El Salvador 4-0; Sov. Union-El Salvador 2-0; Mexico-Belgium 1-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Sov. Union	3	2	1	0	6	1 5
Mexico	3	2	1	0	5	0 5
Belgium	3	1	0	2	4	5 2
El Salvador	3	0	0	3	0	9 0

Group 2: Uruguay-Israel 2-0; Italy-Sweden 1-0; Uruguay-Italy 0-0; Sweden-Israel 1-1; Sweden-Uruguay 1-0; Italy-Israel 0-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Italy	3	1	2	0	1	0 4
Uruguay	3	1	1	1	2	1 3
Sweden	3	1	1	1	2	2 3
Israel	3	0	2	1	1	3 2

Group 3: England-Rumania 1-0; Brazil-Czechoslovakia 4-1; Rumania-Czechoslovakia 2-1; Brazil-England 1-0; Brazil-Rumania 3-2; England-Czechoslovakia 1-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	8	3 6
England	3	2	0	1	2	1 4
Rumania	3	1	0	2	4	5 2
Czechoslovakia	3	0	0	3	2	7 0

Group 4: Peru-Bulgaria 3-2; West Germany-Morocco 2-1; Peru-Morocco 3-0; West Germany-Bulgaria 5-2; West Germany-Peru 3-1; Morocco-Bulgaria 1-1; Mexico-Canada 2-1; US-Mexico 1-2. **Plm gp 2:** Guatemala-El Salvador 1-0, 1-0. **Plm gp 3:** Honduras-Costa Rica 2-1, 3-3. **Plm gp 4:** Jamaica withdrew v Neth. Antilles. **Plm gp 5:** Haiti-Puerto Rico 7-0, 5-0. **Plm gp 6:** Surinam-Trinidad 1-2; Trinidad-Surinam 1-1; Surinam-Antigua 3-1; Antigua-Surinam 0-6; Trinidad-Antigua 11-1; Antigua-Trinidad 1-2. **Final rnd** (in Haiti): Honduras-Trinidad 2-1; Mexico-Guatemala 0-0; Haiti-Neth. Antilles 3-0; Honduras-Mexico 1-1; Neth. Antilles-Guatemala 2-2; Haiti-Honduras 1-0; Mexico-Neth. Antilles 8-0; Trinidad-Guatemala 1-0; Honduras-Neth. Antilles 2-2; Haiti-Guatemala 2-1; Trinidad-Mexico 4-0; Honduras-Guatemala 1-1; Trinidad-Neth. Antilles 4-0; Mexico-Haiti 1-0; Haiti-Trinidad 2-1 (Haiti qual).

Asia/Oceania – 1st rnd: Plm gp A1: Hong Kong-S.Vietnam 1-0; Japan-S.Vietnam 4-0; Japan-Hong Kong 0-1. **Plm gp A2:** S.Korea-Thailand 4-0; Israel-Thailand 6-0; Malaysia-Thailand 2-0; S.Korea-Israel 0-0; S.Korea-Malaysia 0-0; Israel-Malaysia 3-0. **Plm gp B1:** Australia-New Zealand 1-1; Australia-Iraq 3-1; Indonesia-New Zealand 1-1; Iraq-New Zealand 2-0; Australia-Indonesia 2-1; Iraq-Indonesia 1-1; Australia-New Zealand 3-3; Indonesia-New Zealand 1-0; Australia-Iraq 0-0; Iraq-Indonesia 3-2; Iraq-New Zealand 4-0; Australia-Indonesia 6-0. **Plm gp B2:** North Korea-Iran 0-0; Syria-Kuwait 2-1; Iran-Kuwait 2-1; N. Korea-Syria 1-1; Iran-Syria 1-0; Kuwait-N. Korea 0-0; N. Korea-Iran 1-2; Syria-Kuwait 2-0; Iran-Kuwait 2-0; N. Korea-Syria 3-0; Syria-Iran 1-0; Kuwait-N. Korea 2-0. **2nd rnd:** S.Korea-Hong Kong 3-1; Israel-Japan 1-0. **3rd rnd:** S.Korea-Israel 1-0; Australia-Iran 3-0, 0-2. **Final rnd:** Australia-S.Korea 0-0, 2-2, 1-0 (play-off in Hong Kong).

Africa – 1st rnd: Morocco-Senegal 0-0, 2-1; Algeria-Guinea 1-0, 1-5; Egypt-Tunisia 2-1, 0-2; Sierra Leone-Ivory Coast 0-1, 0-2; Kenya-Sudan 2-0, 0-1; Madagascar withdrew v Mauritius; Ethiopia-Tanzania 0-0, 1-1, 3-0; Nigeria-Congo Brazzaville 2-1, 1-1; Dahomey-Ghana 0-5, 1-5; Togo-Zaire 0-0, 0-4; Gabon withdrew v Cameroon; Lesotho-Zambia 0-0, 1-6. **2nd rnd:** Guinea-Morocco 1-1, 0-2; Tunisia-Ivory Coast 1-1, 1-2; Mauritius-Kenya 1-3, 2-2; Ethiopia-Zambia 0-0, 2-4; Nigeria-Ghana 2-3 (match abandoned); 1-1; Cameroon-Zaire 0-1, 1-0, 0-2. 3rd rnd: Ivory Coast-Morocco 1-1, 1-4; Zambia-Kenya 2-0, 2-2; Ghana-Zaire 1-0, 1-4. **Final rnd:** Zambia-Morocco 4-0; Zambia-Zaire 0-2; Zaire-Zambia 2-1; Morocco-Zambia 2-0; Zaire-Morocco 3-0; Morocco v Zaire awarded 2-0 to Zaire (Zaire qual).

The finals (in West Germany, June 13 to July 7): Group 1: West Germany-Chile 1-0; East Germany-Australia 2-0; West Germany-Australia 3-0; East Germany-Chile 1-1; East Germany-West Germany 1-0; Chile-Australia 0-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
East Germany	3	2	1	0	4	1 5
West Germany	3	2	0	1	4	1 4
Chile	3	0	2	1	1	2 2
Australia	3	0	1	2	0	5 1

Group 2: Brazil-Yugoslavia 0-0; Scotland-Zaire 2-0; Brazil-Scotland 0-0; Yugoslavia-Zaire 9-0; Scotland-Yugoslavia 1-1; Brazil-Zaire 3-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Yugoslavia	3	1	2	0	10	1 4
Brazil	3	1	2	0	3	0 4
Scotland	3	1	2	0	3	1 4
Zaire	3	0	0	3	0	14 0

Group 3: Holland-Uruguay 2-0; Sweden-Bulgaria 0-0; Holland-Sweden 0-0; Bulgaria-Uruguay 1-1; Holland-Bulgaria 4-1; Sweden-Uruguay 3-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Holland	3	2	1	0	6	1 5
Sweden	3	1	2	0	3	0 4
Bulgaria	3	0	2	1	2	5 2
Uruguay	3	0	1	2	1	6 1

Group 4: Italy-Haiti 3-1; Poland-Argentina 3-2; Argentina-Italy 1-1; Poland-Haiti 7-0; Argentina-Haiti 4-1; Poland-Italy 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Poland	3	3	0	0	12	3 6
Argentina	3	1	1	1	7	5 3
Italy	3	1	1	1	5	4 3
Haiti	3	0	0	3	2	14 0

2nd rnd: Group A: Brazil-East Germany 1-0; Holland-Argentina 4-0; Holland-East Germany 2-0; Brazil-Argentina 2-1; Holland-Brazil 2-0; Argentina-East Germany 1-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Holland	3	3	0	0	8	0 6
Brazil	3	2	0	1	3	3 4
East Germany	3	0	1	2	1	4 1
Argentina	3	0	1	2	2	7 1

2nd rnd: Group B: Poland-Sweden 1-0; West Germany-Yugoslavia 2-0; Poland-Yugoslavia 2-1; West Germany-Sweden 4-2; Sweden-Yugoslavia 2-1; West Germany-Poland 1-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
West Germany	3	3	0	0	7	2 6
Poland	3	2	0	1	3	2 4
Sweden	3	1	0	2	4	6 2
Yugoslavia	3	0	0	3	2	6 0

Third-place match: Poland 1, Brazil 0.

THE FINAL (Munich/Olimpiastadion)
West Germany 2 (Breitner 25 pen, Muller 43)
Holland 1 (Neeskens 2 pen)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 77,833. **Ref:** Jack Taylor (Eng)

West Germany: Maier – Vogts, Schwarzenbeck, Beckenbauer, Breitner – Hoeness, Bonhof, Overath – Grabowski, G.Muller, Hölzenbein.

Holland: Jongbloed – Suurbier, Rijsbergen, Haan, Krol – Jansen, Neeskens, Van Hanegem – Rep, Cruyff, Rensenbrink (R. Van de Kerkhof 46).

Top scorer: Grzegorz Lato (Poland) 7 goals.

Official aggregate finals attendance: 1,774,022 (ave 46,685).

1978
ARGENTINA

Qualifying rounds:

Europe – Group 1: Cyprus-Denmark 1-5; Portugal-Poland 0-2; Denmark-Cyprus 5-0; Poland-Cyprus 5-0; Portugal-Denmark 1-0; Cyprus-Portugal 1-2; Denmark-Poland 1-2; Cyprus-Poland 1-3; Poland-Denmark 4-1; Denmark-Portugal 2-4; Poland-Portugal 1-1; Portugal-Cyprus 4-0 (Poland qual).

Group 2: Finland 1, England 4; Finland 7, Luxembourg 1; England-Finland 2-1; Luxembourg-Italy 1-4; Italy-England 2-0; England-Luxembourg 5-0; Luxembourg-Finland 0-1; Finland-Italy 0-3; Luxembourg-England 0-2; Italy 6, Finland 1; England 2, Italy 0; Italy 3, Luxembourg 0 (Italy qual).

Group 3: Turkey-Malta 4-0; East Germany-Turkey 1-1; Malta-Austria 0-1; Malta-East Germany 0-1; Austria-Turkey 1-0; Austria-Malta 9-0; Austria-East Germany 1-1; East Germany-Austria 1-1; East Germany-Malta 9-0; Turkey-Austria 0-1; Turkey-East Germany 1-2; Malta-Turkey 0-3 (Austria qual).

Group 4: Iceland-Belgium 0-1; Iceland-Holland 0-1; Holland-N. Ireland 2-2; Belgium-N. Ireland 2-0; Belgium-Holland 0-2; Iceland-N. Ireland 1-0; Holland-Iceland 4-1; Belgium-Iceland 4-0; N. Ireland-Iceland 2-0; N. Ireland-Holland 0-1; Holland-Belgium 1-0; N. Ireland-Belgium 3-0 (Holland qual).

Group 5: Bulgaria-France 2-2; France-Rep. Ireland 2-0; Rep. Ireland-France 1-0; Bulgaria-Rep. Ireland 2-1; Rep. Ireland-Bulgaria 0-0; France-Bulgaria 3-1 (France qual).

Group 6: Sweden-Norway 2-0; Norway-Switzerland 1-0; Switzerland-Sweden 1-2; Sweden-Switzerland 2-1; Norway-Sweden 2-1; Switzerland-Norway 1-0 (Sweden qual).

Group 7: Czechoslovakia-Scotland 2-0; Scotland-Wales 1-0; Wales-Czechoslovakia 3-0; Scotland-Czechoslovakia 3-1; Wales-Scotland 0-2; Czechoslovakia-Wales 1-0 (Scotland qual).

Group 8: Spain-Yugoslavia 1-0; Rumania-Spain 1-0; Yugoslavia-Rumania 0-2; Spain-Rumania 2-0; Rumania-Yugoslavia 4-6; Yugoslavia-Spain 0-1 (Spain qual).

Group 9: Greece-Hungary 1-1; Sov. Union-Greece 2-0; Hungary-Sov. Union 2-1; Greece-Sov. Union 1-0; Sov. Union-Hungary 2-0; Hungary-Greece 3-0 (Hungary qual. for play-off against Bolivia).

South America – 1st rnd: Group 1: Colombia-Brazil 0-0, Colombia-Paraguay 0-1; Paraguay-Colombia 1-1; Brazil-Colombia 6-0; Paraguay-Brazil 0-1; Brazil-Paraguay 1-1.

Group 2: Venezuela-Uruguay 1-1; Bolivia-Uruguay 1-0; Venezuela-Bolivia 1-3; Bolivia-Venezuela 2-0; Uruguay-Venezuela 2-0; Uruguay-Bolivia 2-2.

Group 3: Ecuador-Peru 1-1; Ecuador-Chile 0-1; Chile-Peru 1-1; Peru-Ecuador 4-0; Chile-Ecuador 3-0; Peru-Chile 2-0. **Final rnd:** Brazil-Peru 1-0; Brazil-Bolivia 8-0; Peru-Bolivia 5-0 (Brazil and Peru qual. for finals; Bolivia qual. for play-off against Hungary).

Europe/South America play-off: Hungary-Bolivia 6-0, 3-2 (Hungary qual).

Central/North America: 1st rnd: Plm gp 1: Canada-United States 1-1; US-Mexico 0-0; Canada-Mexico 1-0; Mexico-US 3-0; US-Canada 2-0; Mexico-Canada 0-0. **Play-off** (in Haiti) for second place: Canada-US 3-0. **Plm gp 2:** Panama-Costa Rica 3-2; Panama-El Salvador 1-1; Costa Rica-Panama 3-0; El Salvador-Panama 4-1; Panama-Guatemala 2-4; Guatemala-Panama 7-0; El Salvador-Costa Rica 1-1; Costa Rica-Guatemala 0-0; Guatemala-El Salvador 3-1; Guatemala-Costa Rica 1-1; Costa Rica-El Salvador 1-1; El Salvador-Guatemala 2-0. **Plm gp 3, qual. rnd:** Dominican Rep.-Haiti 0-3, 0-3. **Plm gp 3, 1st rnd:** Guyana-Surinam 2-0, 0-3; Neth. Antilles-Haiti 1-2, 0-7; Jamaica-Cuba 1-3, 0-2; Barbados-Trinidad/Tobago 2-1, 0-1, 1-3 (in Port-of-Spain). **2nd rnd:** Surinam-Trinidad/Tobago 1-1, 2-2, 3-2 (in Cayenne); Cuba-Haiti 1-1, 1-1, 0-2 (in Panama City). **Final rnd:** Guatemala-Surinam 3-2; El Salvador-Canada 2-1; Mexico-Haiti 4-1; Canada-Surinam 2-1; Haiti-Guatemala 2-1; Mexico-El Salvador 3-1; Mexico-Surinam 8-1; Canada-Guatemala 2-1; Haiti-El Salvador 1-0; Mexico-Guatemala 2-1; Canada-Haiti 1-1; El Salvador-Surinam 3-2; Mexico-Canada 3-1; Haiti-Surinam 1-0; Guatemala-El Salvador 2-2 (Mexico qual).

Africa – Prelim. rnd: Sierra Leone-Niger 5-1, 1-2; Upper Volta-Mauritania 1-1, 2-0. **1st rnd:** Algeria-Libya 1-0, 0-0; Morocco-Tunisia 1-1, 1-1 (2-4 pens); Togo-Senegal 1-0, 1-1; Ghana-Guinea 2-1, 1-2, 0-2 (in Togo); Central African Rep. withdrew v Zaire; Sierra Leone-Nigeria 0-0, 2-6; Congo-Cameroon 2-2, 2-1; Upper Volta-Ivory Coast 1-1, 0-2; Egypt-Ethiopia 3-0, 2-1; Sudan withdrew v Kenya; Tanzania withdrew v Uganda; Zambia-Malawi 4-1, 1-0. **2nd rnd:** Tunisia-Algeria 2-0, 1-1; Togo-Guinea 0-2, 1-2; Ivory Coast-Congo 3-2, 3-1; Kenya-Egypt 0-0, 0-1; Uganda-Zambia 1-0, 2-4; Zaire withdrew v Nigeria. **3rd rnd:** Guinea-Tunisia 1-0, 1-3; Ivory Coast-Nigeria 2-2, 0-4; Egypt-Zambia 2-0, 0-0. **Final rnd:** Tunisia-Nigeria 0-0; Nigeria-Egypt 4-1; Egypt-Nigeria 3-1; Nigeria-Tunisia 0-1; Egypt-Tunisia 3-2; Tunisia-Egypt 4-1 (Tunisia qual).

Asia/Oceania – Oceania plm gp: Australia-Taiwan 3-0; Taiwan-Australia 1-2; New Zealand-Taiwan 6-0; Taiwan-New Zealand 0-6; Australia-New Zealand 3-1; New Zealand-Australia 1-1. **Asian plm gp 1:** Singapore-Thailand 2-0; Hongkong-Indonsia 4-1; Malaysia-Thailand 6-4; Hong Kong-Singapore 2-2; Indonesia-Malaysia 0-0; Thailand-Hong Kong 1-2; Singapore-Malaysia 1-0; Thailand-Indonesia 3-2; Malaysia-Hongkong 1-1; Indonesia-Singapore 4-0. **Final:** Singapore 0, Hong Kong 1. **Plm gp 2** (North Korea withdrew): Israel-S. Korea 0-0; Israel-Japan 2-0; Japan-Israel 0-2; S. Korea-Israel 3-1; Japan-S. Korea 0-0; S. Korea-Japan 1-0. **Plm gp 3:** Saudi Arabia-Syria 2-0; Syria-S. Arabia 2-1; S. Arabia-Iran 0-3; Syria-Iran 0-1; Iran-Syria awarded 2-0 to Iran because Syria withdrew; Iran-S. Arabia 2-0. **Plm gp 4** (UAE withdrew): Bahrain-Kuwait 0-2; Bahrain-Qatar 0-2; Qatar-Kuwait 0-2; Bahrain-Kuwait 1-2; Qatar-Bahrain 0-3; Qatar-Kuwait 1-4. **Final rnd:** Hong Kong-Iran 0-2; Hong Kong-S. Korea 0-1; S. Korea-Iran 0-0; Australia-Hong Kong 3-0; Australia-Iran 0-1; Australia-S. Korea 2-1; Hong Kong-Kuwait 1-3; S. Korea-Kuwait 1-0; Australia-Kuwait 1-2; S. Korea-Australia 0-0; Iran-Kuwait 1-0; Hong Kong-Australia 2-5; Kuwait-S. Korea 2-2; Iran-S. Korea 2-2; Kuwait-Hong Kong 4-0; Iran-Hong Kong 3-0; Kuwait-Australia 1-0; Iran-Australia 1-0; Kuwait-Iran 1-2; S. Korea-Hong Kong 5-2 (Iran qual).

The finals (in Argentina, June 1 to June 25): Group 1: Italy-France 2-1; Argentina-Hungary 2-1; Italy-Hungary 3-1; Argentina-France 2-1; France-Hungary 3-1; Italy-Argentina 1-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Italy	3	3	0	0	6	2 6
Argentina	3	2	0	1	4	3 4
France	3	1	0	2	5	5 2
Hungary	3	0	0	3	3	8 0

Group 2: West Germany-Poland 0-0; Tunisia-Mexico 3-1; Poland-Tunisia 1-0; West Germany-Mexico 6-0; Poland-Mexico 3-1; West Germany-Tunisia 0-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Poland	3	2	1	0	4	1 5
West Germany	3	1	2	0	6	0 4
Tunisia	3	1	1	1	3	2 3
Mexico	3	0	0	3	2	12 0

Group 3: Austria-Spain 2-1; Brazil-Sweden 1-1; Austria-Sweden 1-0; Brazil-Spain 0-0; Spain-Sweden 1-0; Brazil-Austria 1-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Austria	3	2	0	1	3	2 4
Brazil	3	1	2	0	2	1 4
Spain	3	1	1	1	2	2 3
Sweden	3	0	1	2	1	3 1

Group 4: Peru-Scotland 3-1; Holland-Iran 3-0; Scotland-Iran 1-1; Holland-Peru 0-0; Peru-Iran 4-1; Scotland-Holland 3-2.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Peru	3	2	1	0	7	2 5
Holland	3	1	1	1	5	3 3
Scotland	3	1	1	1	5	6 3
Iran	3	0	1	2	2	8 1

2nd rnd – Group A: West Germany-Italy 0-0; Holland-Austria 5-1; Italy-Austria 1-0; Holland-West Germany 2-2; Holland-Italy 2-1; Austria-West Germany 3-2.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Holland	3	2	1	0	9	4 5
Italy	3	1	1	1	2	2 3
West Germany	3	0	2	1	4	5 2
Austria	3	1	0	2	4	8 2

2nd rnd – Group B: Brazil-Peru 3-0; Argentina-Poland 2-0; Poland-Peru 1-0; Argentina-Brazil 0-0; Brazil-Poland 3-1; Argentina-Peru 6-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Argentina	3	2	1	0	8	0 5
Brazil	3	2	1	0	6	1 5
Poland	3	1	0	2	2	5 2
Peru	3	0	0	3	0	10 0

Third-place match: Brazil-Italy 2-1.

THE FINAL (Buenos Aires/River Plte-Monumental)
Argentina 3 (Kempes 38, 105, Bertoni 116)
Holland 1 (Nanninga 82)
HT: 1-0. **90min:** 1-1. **Att:** 77,260. **Ref:** Sergio Gonella (It)
After extra time.

Argentina: Fillol – Olguin, Galvan, Passarella, Tarantini – Ardiles (Larrosa 66), Gallego, Kempes – Bertoni, Luque, Ortiz (Houseman 75).

Manager: Cesar Luis Menotti.

Holland: Jongbloed – Poortvliet, Krol, Brandts – Jansen (Suurbier 73), Neeskens, Haan, W.Van de Kerkhof – R.Van de Kerkhof, Rep (Nanninga 59), Rensenbrink.

Manager: Ernst Happel.

Top scorer: Mario Kempes (Argentina) 6 goals.

Official aggregate finals attendance: 1,610,215 (ave 42,374).

Argentina's Bertoni caught in mid-air by Holland's Rensenbrink during the 1978 Final.

1982
SPAIN

Qualifying rounds:

Europe – Group 1: Finland-Bulgaria 0-2; Albania-Finland 2-0; Finland-Austria 0-2; Bulgaria-Albania 2-1; Austria-Albania 5-0; Bulgaria-West Germany 1-3; Albania-Austria 0-1; Albania-West Germany 0-2; West Germany-Austria 2-0; Bulgaria-Finland 4-0; Finland-West Germany 0-4; Austria-Bulgaria 2-0; Austria-Finland 5-1; Finland-Albania 2-1; West Germany-Finland 7-1; Austria-West Germany 1-3; Albania-Bulgaria 0-2; Bulgaria-Austria 0-2; West Germany-Albania 8-0; West Germany-Bulgaria 4-0 (West Germany and Austria qual).

Group 2: Cyprus-Rep. Ireland 2-3; Rep. Ireland-Holland 2-1; Cyprus-France 0-7; Rep. Ireland-Belgium 1-1; France-Rep. Ireland 2-0; Belgium-Holland 1-0; Rep. Ireland-Cyprus 6-0; Cyprus-Belgium 0-2; Belgium-Cyprus 3-2; Holland-Cyprus 3-0; Holland-France 3-0; Belgium-Rep. Ireland 1-0; France-Belgium 3-2; Cyprus-Holland 0-1; Holland-Rep. Ireland 2-2; Belgium-France 2-0; Holland-Belgium 3-0; Rep. Ireland-France 3-2; France-Holland 2-0; France-Cyprus 4-0 (Belgium and France qual).

Group 3: Iceland-Wales 0-4; Iceland-Sov. Union 1-2; Turkey-Iceland 1-3; Wales-Turkey 4-0; Sov. Union-Iceland 5-0; Wales-Czechoslovakia 1-0; Czechoslovakia-Turkey 2-0; Turkey-Wales 0-1; Turkey-Czechoslovakia 0-3; Czechoslovakia-Iceland 6-1; Wales-Sov. Union 0-0; Iceland-Turkey 2-0; Czechoslovakia-Wales 2-0; Iceland-Czechoslovakia 1-1; Sov. Union-Turkey 4-0; Wales-Iceland 2-2; Sov. Union-Czechoslovakia 2-0; Sov. Union-Wales 3-0; Czechoslovakia-Sov. Union 1-1 (Sov. Union and Czechoslovakia qual).

Group 4: England-Norway 4-0; Norway-Rumania 1-1; Rumania-England 2-1; Switzerland-Norway 1-2; England-Switzerland 2-1; Switzerland-Hungary 2-2; England-Rumania 0-0; Hungary-Rumania 1-0; Norway-Hungary 1-2; Switzerland-England 2-1; Rumania-Norway 1-0; Hungary-England 1-3; Norway-Switzerland 1-1; Norway-England 2-1; Rumania-Hungary 0-0; Rumania-Switzerland 1-2; Hungary-Switzerland 3-0; Hungary-Norway 4-1; Switzerland-Rumania 0-0; England-Hungary 1-0 (Hungary and England qual).

Group 5: Luxembourg-Yugoslavia 0-5; Yugoslavia-Denmark 2-1; Luxembourg-Italy 0-2; Denmark-Greece 0-1; Italy-Denmark 2-0; Italy-Yugoslavia 2-0; Denmark-Luxembourg 4-0; Greece-Italy 0-2; Greece-Luxembourg 2-0; Luxembourg-Greece 0-2; Yugoslavia-Greece 5-1; Luxembourg-Denmark 1-2; Denmark-Italy 3-1; Denmark-Yugoslavia 1-2; Greece-Denmark 2-3; Yugoslavia-Italy 1-1; Italy-Greece 1-1; Yugoslavia-Luxembourg 5-0; Greece-Yugoslavia 1-0; Italy-Luxembourg 1-0 (Yugoslavia and Italy qual).

Group 6: Israel-N. Ireland 0-0; Sweden-Israel 1-1; Sweden-Scotland 0-1; N. Ireland-Sweden 3-0; Scotland-Portugal 0-0; Israel-Sweden 0-0; Portugal-N. Ireland 1-0; Portugal-Israel 3-0; Israel-Scotland 0-1; Scotland-N. Ireland 1-1; Scotland-Israel 3-1; N. Ireland-Portugal 1-0; Sweden-N. Ireland 1-0; Sweden-Portugal 3-0; Scotland-Sweden 2-0; Portugal-Sweden 1-2; N. Ireland-Scotland 0-0; Israel-Portugal 4-1; N. Ireland-Israel 1-0; Portugal-Scotland 2-1 (Scotland and N. Ireland qual).

Group 7: Malta-Poland 0-2; Malta-East Germany 1-2; Poland-East Germany 1-0; East Germany-Poland 2-3; East Germany-Malta 5-1; Poland-Malta 6-0 (Poland qual).

South America – Group 1: Venezuela-Brazil 0-1; Bolivia-Venezuela 3-0; Bolivia-Brazil 1-2; Venezuela-Bolivia 1-0; Brazil-Bolivia 3-1; Brazil-Venezuela 5-0 (Brazil qual).

Group 2: Colombia-Peru 1-1; Uruguay-Colombia 3-2; Peru-Colombia 2-0; Uruguay-Peru 2-1; Peru-Uruguay 0-0; Colombia-Uruguay 1-1 (Peru qual).

Group 3: Ecuador-Paraguay 1-0; Ecuador-Chile 0-0; Paraguay-Ecuador 3-1; Paraguay-Chile 0-1; Chile-Ecuador 2-0; Chile-Paraguay 3-0 (Chile qual).

Africa – Senegal-Morocco 0-1, 0-0; Zaire-Mozambique 5-2, 2-1; Cameroon-Malawi 3-0, 1-1; Guinea-Lesotho 3-1, 1-1; Tunisia-Nigeria 2-0, 0-2 (3-4 pens); Libya-Gambia 2-1, 0-0; Ethiopia-Zambia 0-0, 0-4; Niger-Somalia 0-0, 1-1 (Niger on away goals rule); Sierra Leone-Algeria 2-2, 1-3; Kenya-Tanzania 3-1, 0-5; Ghana withdrew v Egypt; Uganda withdrew v Madagascar; Central African Republic withdrew; Zimbabwe, Sudan, Liberia and Togo all byes. **2nd rnd:** Algeria-Sudan 2-0, 1, 1-1; Niger-Togo 0-1, 2-1 (Niger on away goals rule); Liberia-Guinea 0-0, 0-1; Cameroon-Zimbabwe 2-0, 0-1; Morocco-Zambia 2-0, 0-2 (5-4 pens); Nigeria-Tanzania 1-1, 2-0; Madagascar-Zaire 1-1, 2-3; Libya withdrew v Egypt. **3rd rnd:** Algeria-Niger 4-0, 0-1; Guinea-Nigeria 1-1, 0-1; Morocco-Egypt 1-0, 0-0; Zaire-Cameroon 1-0, 1-6. **Final rnd:** Nigeria-Algeria 0-2, 1-2; Morocco-Cameroon 0-2, 1-2 (Algeria and Cameroon qual).

Central/North America – Northern zone: Canada-Mexico 1-1; United States-Canada 0-0; Canada-US 2-1; Mexico-US 5-1; Mexico-Canada 1-1; US-Mexico 2-1. **Central zone:** Panama-Guatemala 0-2; Panama-Honduras 0-2; Panama-Costa Rica 1-1 Panama-El Salvador 1-3; Costa Rica-Honduras 2-3; El Salvador-Panama 4-1; Guatemala-Costa Rica 0-0; Honduras-Guatemala 0-0; El Salvador-Costa Rica awarded to El Salvador 2-0; Costa Rica-Panama 2-0; Guatemala-El Salvador 0-0; Guatemala-Panama 5-0; Honduras-Costa Rica 1-1; El Salvador-Honduras 2-1; Costa Rica-Guatemala 0-3; Honduras-El Salvador 2-0; Guatemala-Honduras 0-1; Costa Rica-El Salvador 0-0; Honduras-Panama 5-0; El Salvador-Guatemala 1-0. **Caribbean zone: Plm rnd:** Guyana-Grenada 5-2, 3-2. **Zone group A;** Cuba-Surinam 3-0; Surinam-Cuba 0-0; Guyana-Surinam 0-1; Surinam-

Argentina's Maradona takes a spectacular dive against West Germany in the 1986 Final in Mexico City.

COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE WORLD CUP

CONTINUED

1986
MEXICO

Qualifying rounds:

Europe – Group 1: Belgium-Albania 3-1; Poland-Greece 3-1; Poland-Albania 2-2; Greece-Belgium 0-0; Albania-Belgium 2-0; Greece-Albania 2-0; Belgium-Greece 2-0; Belgium-Poland 2-0; Greece-Poland 1-4; Albania-Poland 0-1; Poland-Belgium 0-0; Albania-Greece 1-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	6	3	2	1	10	6	8
Belgium	6	3	2	1	7	3	8
Albania	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Greece	6	1	2	3	5	10	4

Poland qualify for the finals; Belgium enter play-off against Holland.

Group 2: Sweden-Malta 4-0; Sweden-Portugal 0-1; Portugal-Czechoslovakia 2-1; West Germany-Sweden 2-0; Czechoslovakia-Malta 4-0; Portugal-Sweden 1-3; Malta-West Germany 2-3; Malta-Portugal 1-3; Portugal-West Germany 1-2; West Germany-Malta 6-0; Malta-Czechoslovakia 0-0; Czechoslovakia-West Germany 1-5; Sweden-Czechoslovakia 2-0; Sweden-West Germany 2-2; Czechoslovakia-Portugal 1-0; Portugal-Malta 3-2; Czechoslovakia-Sweden 2-1; West Germany-Portugal 0-1; West Germany-Czechoslovakia 2-2; Malta-Sweden 1-2.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Germany	8	5	2	1	22	9	12
Portugal	8	5	0	3	12	10	10
Sweden	8	4	1	3	14	9	9
Czechoslovakia	8	3	2	3	11	12	8
Malta	8	0	1	7	6	25	1

West Germany and Portugal qualify.

Group 3: Finland-N. Ireland 1-0; N. Ireland-Rumania 3-2; England-Finland 5-0; Turkey-Finland 1-2; N. Ireland-Finland 2-1; Turkey-England 0-8; N. Ireland-England 0-1; Rumania-Turkey 3-0; N. Ireland-Turkey 2-0; Rumania-England 0-0; Finland-England 1-1; Finland-Rumania 1-1; Rumania-Finland 2-0; Turkey-N. Ireland 0-0; England-Rumania 1-1; Finland-Turkey 1-0; England-Turkey 5-0; Rumania-N. Ireland 0-1; Turkey-Rumania 1-3; England-N. Ireland 0-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	8	4	4	0	21	2	12
N. Ireland	8	4	2	2	8	5	10
Rumania	8	3	3	2	12	7	9
Finland	8	3	2	3	7	12	8
Turkey	8	0	1	7	2	24	1

England and N. Ireland qualify.

Group 4: Yugoslavia-Bulgaria 0-0; Luxembourg-France 0-4; East Germany-Yugoslavia 2-3; Luxembourg-East Germany 0-5; France-Bulgaria 1-0; Bulgaria-Luxembourg 4-0; France-East Germany 2-0; Yugoslavia-Luxembourg 1-0; Yugoslavia-France 0-0; Bulgaria-East Germany 1-0; Luxembourg-Yugoslavia 0-1;
Bulgaria-France 2-0; East Germany-Luxembourg 3-1; Bulgaria-Yugoslavia 2-1; East Germany-France 2-0; Luxembourg-Bulgaria 1-3; Yugoslavia-East Germany 1-2; France-Luxembourg 6-0; France-Yugoslavia 2-0; East Germany-Bulgaria 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	8	5	1	2	15	4	11
Bulgaria	8	5	1	2	13	5	11
East Germany	8	5	0	3	16	9	10
Yugoslavia	8	3	2	3	7	8	8
Luxembourg	8	0	0	8	2	27	0

France and Bulgaria qualify.

Group 5: Cyprus-Austria 1-2; Hungary-Austria 3-1; Holland-Hungary 1-2; Austria-Holland 1-0; Cyprus-Hungary 1-2; Cyprus-Holland 0-1; Holland-Cyprus 7-1; Hungary-Cyprus 2-0; Austria-Hungary 0-3; Holland-Austria 1-1; Austria-Cyprus 4-0; Hungary-Holland 0-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	6	5	0	1	12	4	10
Holland	6	3	1	2	11	5	7
Austria	6	3	1	2	9	8	7
Cyprus	6	0	0	6	3	18	0

Hungary qualify; Holland enter play-off against Belgium.

Group 6: Rep. Ireland-Sov. Union 1-0; Norway-Switzerland 0-1; Denmark-Norway 1-0; Norway-Sov. Union 1-1; Switzerland-Denmark 1-0; Norway-Rep. Ireland 1-0; Denmark-Rep. Ireland 3-0; Switzerland-Sov. Union 2-2; Rep. Ireland-Norway 0-0; Sov. Union-Switzerland 4-0; Rep. Ireland-Switzerland 3-0; Denmark-Sov. Union 4-2; Switzerland-Rep. Ireland 0-0; Sov. Union-Denmark 1-0; Denmark-Switzerland 0-0; Norway-Denmark 1-5; Sov. Union-Rep. Ireland 2-0; Sov. Union-Norway 1-0; Rep. Ireland-Denmark 1-4; Switzerland-Norway 1-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	8	5	1	2	17	6	11
Sov. Union	8	4	2	2	13	8	10
Switzerland	8	2	4	2	5	10	8
Rep. Ireland	8	2	2	4	5	10	6
Norway	8	1	3	4	4	10	5

Denmark and Sov. Union qualify.

Group 7: Iceland-Wales 1-0; Scotland-Iceland 3-0; Spain-Wales 3-0; Wales-Iceland 2-1; Scotland-Spain 3-1; Spain-Scotland 1-0; Scotland-Wales 0-1; Wales-Spain 3-0; Iceland-Scotland 0-1; Iceland-Spain 1-2; Wales-Scotland 1-1; Spain-Iceland 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	6	4	0	2	9	8	8
Scotland	6	3	1	2	8	4	7
Wales	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Iceland	6	1	0	5	4	10	2

Spain qualify; Scotland enter play-off against Australia.

European play-off: Belgium-Holland 1-0, 1-2 (Belgium qualify on away goals rule; agg 2-2).

Europe/Oceania play-off: Scotland-Australia 2-0, 0-0 (Scotland qualify 2-0 on agg).

South America – Group 1: Colombia-Peru 1-0; Venezuela-Argentina 2-3; Colombia-Argentina 1-2; Venezuela-Peru 0-1; Peru-Colombia 0-0; Argentina-Venezuela 3-0; Peru-Venezuela 4-1; Argentina-Colombia 1-0; Venezuela-Colombia 2-2; Peru-Argentina 1-0; Colombia-Venezuela 2-0; Argentina-Peru 2-2.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
Peru	6	3	2	1	8	4	8
Colombia	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
Venezuela	6	0	1	5	5	15	1

Argentina qualify; Peru and Colombia enter play-off round.

Group 2: Ecuador-Chile 1-1; Uruguay-Ecuador 2-1; Chile-Ecuador 6-2; Chile-Uruguay 2-0; Ecuador-Uruguay 0-2; Uruguay-Chile 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	4	3	0	1	6	4	6
Chile	4	2	1	1	10	5	5
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	4	11	1

Uruguay qualify; Chile enter play-off round.

Group 3: olivia-Paraguay 1-1; Bolivia-Brazil 0-2; Paraguay-Bolivia 3-0; Paraguay-Brazil 0-2; Brazil-Paraguay 1-1; Brazil-Bolivia 1-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	4	2	2	0	6	2	6
Paraguay	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Bolivia	4	0	2	2	2	7	2

Brazil qualify; Paraguay enter play-off round.

Play-off round: Semi-finals: Paraguay-Colombia 3-0, 1-2; Chile-Peru 4-2, 1-0. Final: Paraguay-Chile 3-0, 2-2 (Paraguay qualify).

Africa.– 1st rnd: Egypt-Zimbabwe 1-0, 1-1 (2-1 agg); Kenya-Ethiopia 2-1, 3-3 (5-4 agg); Mauritius-Malawi 0-1, 4-0 (4-1 agg); Zambia-Uganda 3-0, 0-1 (3-1 agg); Tanzania-Sudan 1-1, 0-0 (Sudan on away goals; 1-1 agg); Sierra Leone-Morocco 0-1, 0-4 (0-5 agg); Benin-Tunisia 0-2, 0-4 (0-6 agg); Ivory Coast-Gambia 4-0, 2-3 (6-3 agg); Nigeria-Liberia 3-0, 1-0 (4-0 agg); Angola-Senegal 1-0, 0-1 (Angola 4-3 on pens; 1-1 agg). **2nd rnd:** Zambia-Cameroon 4-1, 1-1 (5-2 agg); Guine-Tunisia 1-0, 0-2 (1-2 agg); Sudan-Libya 0-0, 0-4 (0-4 agg); Egypt-Madagascar 1-0, 0-1 (Egypt 3-2 on pens; 1-1 agg); Morocco-Malawi 2-0, 0-0 (2-0 agg); Angola-Algeria 0-0, 2-3 (agg 2-3); Kenya-Nigeria 0-3, 1-3 (agg 1-6); Ivory Coast-Ghana 0-0, 0-2 (agg 0-2). **3rd rnd:** Algeria-Zambia 2-0, 1-0 (agg 3-0); Ghana-Libya 0-0, 0-2 (0-2 agg); Nigeria-Tunisia 1-0, 0-2 (1-2 agg); Egypt-Morocco 0-0, 0-2 (0-2 agg). **Final rnd:** Morocco-Libya 3-0, 0-1 (3-1 agg); Tunisia-Algeria 1-4, 0-3 (1-7 agg). Morocco and Algeria qualify.

Asia – 1st rnd: Group 1, sub-group A (Oman withdrew): S. Arabia-United Arab Emirates 0-0, 0-1 (0-1 agg). **Sub-group B** (Lebanon withdrew): Jordan-Qatar 1-0; Jordan-Iraq 2-3; Qatar-Iraq 3-0; Qatar-Jordan 2-0; Iraq-Jordan 2-0; Iraq-Qatar 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	4	3	0	1	7	6	6
Qatar	4	2	0	2	6	3	4
Jordan	4	1	0	3	3	7	2

Group 2, sub-group A: Syria-Kuwait 1-0; Yemen AR-Syria 0-1; Kuwait-Yemen AR 5-0; Kuwait-Syria 0-0; Syria-Yemen AR 3-0; Yemen AR-Kuwait 1-3.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Syria	4	3	1	0	5	0	7
Kuwait	4	2	1	1	8	2	5
Yemen AR	4	0	0	4	1	12	0

Sub-group B (Iran withdrew): Yemen PDR-Bahrain 1-4, 3-3 (4-7 agg)

Group 3, sub-group A: Nepal-S.Korea 0-2; Malaysia-S.Korea 1-0; Nepal-Malaysia 0-0; Malaysia-Nepal 5-0; S.Korea-Nepal 4-0; S.Korea-Malaysia 2-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	4	3	0	1	8	1	6
Malaysia	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Nepal	4	0	1	3	0	11	1

Sub-group B: Indonesia-Thailand 1-0; Indonesia-Bangladesh 2-0; Indonesia-India 2-1; Thailand-Bangladesh 3-0; Thailand-India 0-0; Thailand-Indonesia 0-1; Bangladesh-India 1-2; Bangladesh-Indonesia 2-1; Bangladesh-Thailand 1-0; India-Indonesia 1-1; India-Thailand 1-1; India-Bangladesh 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indonesia	6	4	1	1	8	4	9
India	6	2	3	1	7	6	7
Thailand	6	1	2	3	4	4	4
Bangladesh	6	2	0	4	5	10	4

Group 4, sub-group A: Macao-Brunei 2-0; Hongkong-China 0-0; Macao-China 0-4; Hongkong-Brunei 8-0; China-Brunei 8-0; Brunei-China 0-4; Brunei-Hongkong 1-5; Brunei-Macao 1-2; Macao-Hongkong 0-2; Hongkong-Macao 2-0; China-Macao 6-0; China-Hongkong 1-2.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	6	5	1	0	19	2	11
China	6	4	1	1	23	2	9
Macao	6	2	0	4	4	15	4
Brunei	6	0	0	6	2	29	0

Sub-group B: Singapore-North Korea 1-1; Singapore-Japan 1-3; Japan-N. Korea 1-0; N. Korea-Japan 0-0; Japan-Singapore 5-0; N. Korea-Singapore 2-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan	4	3	1	0	9	1	7
North Korea	4	1	2	1	3	2	4
Singapore	4	0	1	3	2	11	1

2nd rnd: South Korea-Indonesia 2-0, 4-1 (6-1 agg); UAE-Iraq 2-3, 2-1 (UAE on away goals; 4-4 agg); Bahrain-Syria 1-1, 0-1 (1-2 agg); Japan-Hongkong 3-0, 2-1 (5-1 agg). Final round: Japan-South Korea 1-2, 0-1 (1-3 agg); Syria-Iraq 0-0, 1-3 (1-3 agg). South Korea and Iraq qualify.

Central/North America – 1st rnd: Group 1: El Salvador-Puerto Rico 5-0, 3-0 (8-0 agg); Neth.Antilles-United States 0-0, 0-4 (0-4 agg); Jamaica withdrew against Canada. Group 2: Panama-Honduras 0-3, 0-1 (0-4 agg); Barbados withdrew against Costa Rica. Group 3: Antigua-Haiti 0-4, 2-1 (2-5 agg); Surinam-Guyana 1-0, 1-1 (2-1 agg); Grenada withdrew against Trinidad/Tobago.

2nd rnd: Group 1: Surinam-El Salvador 0-3; El Salvador-Surinam 3-0; Surinam-Honduras 1-1; Honduras-Surinam 2-1; El Salvador-Honduras 1-2; Honduras-El Salvador 0-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Honduras	4	2	2	0	5	3	6
El Salvador	4	2	1	1	7	2	5
Surinam	4	0	1	3	2	9	1

Group 2: Canada-Haiti 2-0; Canada-Guatemala 2-1; Haiti-Guatemala 0-1; Guatemala-Canada 1-1; Haiti-Canada 0-2; Guatemala-Haiti 4-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada	4	3	1	0	7	2	7
Guatemala	4	2	1	1	7	3	5
Haiti	4	0	0	4	0	9	0

Group 3: Trinidad/Tobago-Costa Rica 0-3; Costa Rica-Trinidad/Tobago 1-1; US-Trinidad/Tobago 2-1; Trinidad/Tobago-US 0-1; Costa Rica-US 1-1; US-Costa Rica 0-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Costa Rica	4	2	2	0	6	2	6
United States	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Trinidad/Tobago	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

Final rnd: Costa Rica-Honduras 2-2; Canada-Costa Rica 1-1; Honduras-Canada 0-1; Costa Rica-Canada 0-0; Honduras-Costa Rica 3-1; Canada-Honduras 2-1.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada	4	2	2	0	4	2	6
Honduras	4	1	1	2	6	6	3
Costa Rica	4	0	3	1	4	6	3

Canada qualify.

Oceania – Israel-Taiwan 6-0; Taiwan-Israel 0-5; New Zealand-Australia 0-0; New Zealand-Taiwan 5-1; Israel-Australia 1-2; Taiwan 0, New Zealand 5; Australia-Israel 1-1; Australia-Taiwan 7-0; New Zealand-Israel 3-1; Taiwan-Australia 0-8; Australia-New Zealand 2-0; Israel-New Zealand 3-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	6	4	2	0	20	2	10
Israel	6	3	1	2	17	6	7
New Zealand	6	3	1	2	13	7	7
Taiwan	6	0	0	6	1	36	0

Australia enter qualifying play-off against Scotland.

The finals (in Mexico, May 31 to June 29): Group A: Bulgaria-Italy 1-1; Argentina-South Korea 3-1; Italy-Argentina 1-1; South Korea-Bulgaria 1-1; South Korea-Italy 2-3; Argentina-Bulgaria 2-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	2	1	0	6	2	5
Italy	3	1	2	0	5	4	4
Bulgaria	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
South Korea	3	0	1	2	4	7	1

Group B: Belgium-Mexico 1-2; Paraguay-Iraq 1-0; Mexico-Paraguay 1-1; Iraq-Belgium 1-2; Iraq-Mexico 0-1; Paraguay-Belgium 2-2.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
Paraguay	3	1	2	0	4	3	4
Belgium	3	1	1	1	5	5	3
Iraq	3	0	0	3	1	4	0

Group C: Canada-France 0-1; Sov. Union-Hungary 6-0; France-Sov. Union 1-1; Hungary-Canada 2-0; Hungary-France 0-3; Sov. Union-Canada 2-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sov. Union	3	2	1	0	9	1	5
France	3	2	1	0	5	1	5
Hungary	3	1	0	2	2	9	2
Canada	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

Group D: Spain-Brazil 0-1; Algeria-N. Ireland 1-1; Brazil-Algeria 1-0; N. Ireland-Spain 1-2; N. Ireland-Brazil 0-3; Algeria-Spain 0-3.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	5	0	6
Spain	3	2	0	1	5	2	4
N. Ireland	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
Algeria	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Group E: Uruguay-West Germany 1-1; Scotland-Denmark 0-1; West Germany-Scotland 2-1 ; Denmark-Uruguay 6-1; Denmark-West Germany 2-0; Scotland-Uruguay 0-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
West Germany	3	1	1	1	3	4	3
Uruguay	3	0	2	1	2	7	2
Scotland	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Group F: Morocco-Poland 0-0; Portugal-England 1-0; England-Morocco 0-0; Poland-Portugal 1-0; Portugal-Morocco 1-3; England-Poland 3-0.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco	3	1	2	0	3	1	4
England	3	1	1	1	3	1	3
Poland	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Portugal	3	1	0	2	2	4	2

2nd rnd: Mexico-Bulgaria 2-0; Belgium-Sov. Union 4-3 aet; Argentina-Uruguay 1-0; Brazil-Poland 4-0; France-Italy 2-0; West Germany-Morocco 1-0; England-Paraguay 3-0; Spain-Denmark 5-1.

Quarter-finals: France-Brazil 1-1 aet (4-3 pens); West Germany-Mexico 0-0 aet (4-1 pens); Belgium-Spain 1-1 aet (5-4 pens); Argentina-England 2-1.

Semi-finals: Argentina-Belgium 2-0; West Germany-France 2-0.

Third-place match: France-Belgium 4-2 aet.

THE FINAL (Mexico City/Estadio Azteca)
Argentina 3 (Brown 23, Valdano 55, Burruchaga 83)
West Germany 2 (Rummenigge 74, Vtller 80)

HT: 1-0. **Att:** 114,600. **Ref:** Romualdo Arppi Filho (Brz).

Argentina: Pumpido – Ruggeri, Brown, Cuciuffo – Giusti, Burruchaga (Trobbiani 88), Batista, Enrique, Olarticoechea – Valdano, Maradona (cpt).

Manager: Carlos Bilardo.

West Germany: Schumacher – Berthold, Jakobs, Brehme, K.Ftrster, Briegel – Matthsus, Eder, Magath (D.Hoeness 60) – Rummenigge, K.Allofs (Voller 46).

Manager: Franz Beckenbauer.

Top scorer: Gary Lineker (England) 6 goals.

Official aggregate finals attendance: 2,199,941 (ave 42,307).

England's Paul Gascoigne was judged the best young player of Italia 90 by many of the world's football writers.

Italy's Golden Boy Toto Schillaci ended as top scorer with six goals.

Michel scored a hat-trick for Spain in their Group E game against South Korea.

Skuhravy's five goals for the Czechs included three in their 4-1 win over Costa Rica.

WORLD BEATERS

Although Italia 90 offered far more controversy and drama than pure skill, there were many individual performances to remember . . .

Roger Milla won the hearts of millions with his stirring displays for the Cameroons. At 38 he is the oldest player to score in a World Cup finals tournament.

Far left: Peter Shilton, at 40 the oldest player in Italy, ended his England career with 125 caps . . . a world record. Left: Italy's 'keeper Zenga went the longest without conceeding a goal. Below: West Germany's Franz Beckenbauer became the first to captain and then manage a World Cup winning nation.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

SATURDAY, MAY 26

May 26 – Brussels – intl friendly
Belgium 2 (Scifo 6pen, Clijsters 28)
Rumania 2 (Rednic 52, Lacatus 65pen)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 31,625.
Belgium: Preud'homme – Gerets, Clijsters, De Wolf (Grun 46), B Versavel, Demol, Van der Elst, Degryse (Vervoort 86), Scifo, Staelens (Ceulemans 46), Wilmots (Claesen 46).
Rumania: Lung – Rednic, Klein, Andone, Rotariu, Popescu, Lacatus (Balint 87), Hagi (Timofte 46), Sabau (Mateut 80), Camataru (Raducioiu 46), Lupu (Dumitrescu 57).

May 26 – Cairo – intl friendly
Egypt 1 (Hossam Hassan 44)
Colombia 1 (Rincon 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000.
Egypt: Shoubeir – Ibrahim Hassan, Hisham Yakan (Saber Eid), Hani Ramzy, Rabie Yassin, Magdi Abdelghani (Ala Mayhoub), Ismail Youssef, Ahmed Ramzy, Taher Abu Zeid (Magdi Tolba), Hassam Hassan, Gamel Abdel Hamid (Adel Abdel Rahman).
Colombia: Higuita – Cabrera, Perea, Mendoza, Alvarez, Redin, Fajardo, Hernandez (Rincon), Gildardo Gomez, Gabriel Gomez, Estrada.

May 26 – Dusseldorf – intl friendly
West Germany 1 (Bein 24)
Czechoslovakia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Galler (Swz)
W Germany: **Illgner – Augenthaler, Kohler, Buchwald, Brehme, Hssler (Thon 76), Littbarski (Muller 69), Matthtus, Bein (Berthold 76), Klinsmann (Mill 76), Voller.**
Czechoslovakia: Stejskal – Kocian, Kadlec, Straka, Moravcik, Kubik (Knoflicek 46), Chovanec, Hasek, Bilek, Bielik (Weiss 85), Skuhravy (Milan Luhovy 69).

May 26 – Ljubljana – intl friendly
Yugoslavia 0
Spain 1 (Butragueno 56)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Lo Bello (It)
Yugoslavia: Ivkovic – Spasic, Jozic, Hadzibegic, Baljic (Sabanadzovic), Dragoljub Brnovic (Jarni), Susic, Stojkovic, Zlatko Vujovic (Pancev), Prosinecki.
Spain: Zubizarreta – Chendo (Pardeza), Jimenez, Andrinua, Sanchis (Gorriz), Martin Vazquez, Villaroya (Rafa Paz), Michel, Manolo (Alkortal), Butragueno (Fernando).

SUNDAY, MAY 27

May 27 – Stockholm – intl friendly
Sweden 6 (Magnusson 4, Limpar 57, Brolin 59, 61, Larsson 64, Thern 74)
Finland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,914. **Ref:** Presberg (Nor)
Sweden: Ravelli – Nilsson (Nyhlen 63), Larsson, Ljung, Schwarz – Limpar, Thern, Ingesson (Stromberg 74), Joakim Nilsson – Brolin (Ekstrum 68), Magnusson (Pettersson 68).
Finland: Laukkanen – Vuorela (Myyry 46), Jantti (Kanerva 34), Holmgren, Heikkinen – Petaja, Tarkkio, Roth (Paavoila 55), Tauriainen – Hjelm, Patelainen.

May 27 – Izmir – intl friendly
Turkey 0
Rep Ireland 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Kirkov (SU)
Turkey: Engin – Kemal (K Gokhan 84), B Gokhan, Turgay – Riza, Ogun, Unal (Mehmet 72), Oguz, Mustafa (Savas 64) – Feyyaz(Hamit 64), Metin.
Rep Ireland: Bonner – Morris, McCarthy, O'Leary (Slaven 64), Staunton (Hughton 52) – McGrath, Waddock (Byrne 52), Sheedy, Townsend (Sheridan 46) – Aldridge, Cascarino.

MONDAY, MAY 28

May 28 – Nimes (France) – intl friendly
United Arab Emirates 0
Hungary 3 (Kovacs 37, 64, 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Benchabanne (Fr)
UAE: Musabah – Essa Meir, Khalil Ghanem Mubarak, Yussuf Hussein, Nasser Khamis, Ali Thani, Abdulrahman Mohammed, Hussen Abas, Ibrahim Meir, Al Talyani, Fahad Khamis.
Hungary: Gelei – L Disztl, Pinter, Garaba – Monus, Varga, Bognar, Meszaros (Fischer 46), Szalma – Kiprich (Balog 57), K Kovacs.

May 28 – Valletta – intl friendly
Malta 1 (McPherson og 43)
Scotland 2 (Alan McInally 5 and 81)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,000.
Malta: Cini – Silvio Vella, Carabott, Galea, Laferla (Camilleri 46), Butigieg, Zerafa (Scerri 77), Ray Vella, Gregory (Zarb 62), Degiorgio, Licari.
Scotland: Goram (Leighton 46) – Gough, Aitken, McPherson, Gillespie (Levein 41), McStay (Collins 80), McCall, Bett (McAllister 46), Malpas, Johnston (McCoist 68), McInally.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

May 30 – Reykjavik – Euro chp gp one
Iceland 2 (Arnor Gudjohnsen 42, Atli Edvaldsson 88)
Albania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,500
Iceland open the 1992 European championship with this victory over an Albanian team whose arrival had been delayed by a run-in with the London police at Heathrow airport over shoplifting suspicions.

May 30 – Vienna – friendly intl
Austria 3 (Pecl 3, Rijkaard og 46, Pfeffer 49)
Holland 2 (R Koeman 60, Van Basten 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Rossner (EG)
Austria: Lindenberger – Russ, Pecl, Streiter (Pfeffer 26), Aigner, Artner (Zsak 35), Linzmaier, Schottel, Herzog, Rodax, Polster (Ogris 62).
Holland: Van Breukelen – Van Aerle, R Koeman, Rijkaard, Van Tiggelen – Wouters, Vanenburg, E Koeman (Roy 66), Richard Witschge – Van Basten, Gullit (Kieft 73).

May 30 – Perugia – friendly intl
Italy 0
Greece 0
Att: 20,000.
Italy: Zenga (Tacconi 46) – Bergomi, Ferri, Vierchowod, De Agostini, Marocchi, Donadoni, De Napoli, Gianini, Schillaci (Baggio 70), Vialli.
Greece: T Papadopulos – Apostolakis, G Papadopulos, Manolas, Kalitzakis, Tsalulhidis, Saravakos, Toursinidis (Tsantakis 59), Borbokis (Samaras 71), Nioplas, Marangos (Kofilis 79).

May 30 – Eschen – friendly intl
Liechtenstein 1 (Marxer 11)
United States 4 (Peter Vermes 10, Marcelo Balboa 53, Eric Wynalda 66, Chris Henderson 75)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,400. **Ref:** Schlup (Swz)
Liechtenstein: Wolfinger – Buechel, Hoop, Schaedler, Moser, Zech, Marxer, Meier, Dspelt, Hefti (Hassler 46), Frick.
US: Keller (Meola 46) – Krumpe, Windischmann, Doyle, Banks, Balboa, Covone, Bliss (Stollmeyer 46), Henderson, Sullivan (Wynalda 56), Vermes (Murray 46).

May 30 – Gelsenkirchen – intl friendly
West Germany 1 (Rudi Voller 37)
Denmark 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,000.
W Germany: Aumann (Kopke 46) – Augenthaler (Steiner 46), Kohler (Reiter 76), Buchwald, Brehme (Pflugler 46), Hassler (Hermann 80), Littbarski (Berthold 46), Matthaus (Thon 67), Bein (Moller 67), Klinsmann (Mill 67), Voller (Riedle 67).
Denmark: Schmeichel – Olsen, Andersen, K Nielsen, Sivebaek, Bruun (Skaarup 77), John Jensen, Vilfort, Bartram (Frandsen 81), Christensen (Risom 73), Povlsen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2

June 2 – Valletta – intl friendly
Malta 0
Rep Ireland 3 (Niall Quinn 43, Andy Townsend 77, Frank Stapleton 87)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Azzopardi (Mal)
Malta: Cini – S Vella (Delia 62), Buttigieg, Galea (Camilleri 80), R Vella, Laferla, Degiorgio, Carabott, Zerafa (Zarb 72), Gregory, Licata.
Rep Ireland: Peyton – Hughton, O'Leary, Moran, Stapleton, Byrne, McLoughlin, Sheridan, Slaven (Townsend 72), Quinn, Kelly (Stapleton 62).
Frank Stapleton scored an Irish record 20th international goal as the Irish comfortably won a friendly manager Jack Charlton had not wanted. The match alsp provided an international debut for midfielder Alan McLoughlin, the late surprise choice from Swindon who had edged Gary Waddock out of the World Cup squad.

June 2 – Brussels – intl friendly
Belgium 3 (Marc Degryse 36, 38, Bruno Versavel 50)
Mexico 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,816. **Ref:** Damgaard (Den)
Belgium: Preud'homme – Demol (Clijsters 46), Gerets (Plovie 84), Grun (Albert 46), De Wolf, Van der Elst, Emmers, Scifo, Degryse, Versavel, Van der Linden (Wilmots 57).
Mexico: Larios – Hernandez, Becerril, Vaca, Esparza, Munoz, Medina (Flores 51), Bernal, Pelaez, Farfan (Espinosa 66), Alves.

June 2 – Budapest – intl friendly
Hungary 3 (Gyorgy Bognar 7, Kalman Kovacs 16, 61)
Colombia 1 (Fredduy Rincon 31)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Zvi (Isr)
Hungary: Gaspar (Bodnar 46) – Monos (Meszoly 46), Pinter, Disztl, Szalma, Garaba (Csik 46), Gyorgy Bognar, Mariassy (Csucsanszky), Kiprich (Fischer 46), Duro (Varga 68), Kalman Kovacs.
Colombia: Higuita – Herrera, Perea, Mendoza, Gildardo Gomez, Alvarez, Gabriel Gomez, Redin, Valderrama, Rincon, Iguaran (Estrada 15).

June 2 – St Gallen – intl friendly
Switzerland 2 (Peter Schepull 71, Adrian Knup 80)
United States 1 (Bruce Murray 22)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Cooper (Wal)
Switzerland: Walker – Hottiger, Baumann (Fischer 46), Herr, Geiger, Sylvestre (Schepull 46), Piffaretti (Chapuisat 46), Hermann, Turkyilmaz (Gertschen 67), Hertig, Knup.
US: Meola – Armstrong, Trittschuh (Doyle 67), Windischmann, Stollmeyer, Caligiuri, Harkes, Ramos (Henderson 67), Wynalda (Balboa 59), Murray, Vermes.

June 2 – Tunis – intl friendly
Tunisia 1 (Abdelhamid Hergal 26)
England 1 (Steve Bull 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Medjiba (Tun)
Tunisia: Zitouni – Ben Neji, Hicheri, Ben Yahia, Mahjoubi, Sellimi, Khemiri (Rashid), Abdelhamid Hergal (Dermeish), Tarek, Rousissi.
England: Shilton – Stevens, Butcher (Wright), Walker, Pearce, Waddle (Platt), Gascoigne, Robson, Hodge (Beardsley), Lineker (Bull), Barnes.

SUNDAY, JUNE 3

June 3 – Zagreb – intl friendly
Yugoslavia 0
Holland 2 (Frank Rijkaard 53, Marco Van Basten 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000.
Yugoslavia: Ivkovic – Spasic, Baljic, Vulic, Hadzibegic, Katanec (Dragoljub Brnovic 57), Susic (Prosinecki 57), Jozic, Savicevic, Stojkovic, Zlatko Vujovic (Pancev 75).
Holland: Van Breukelen – Van Aerle (Blind 69), R Koeman, Rutjes, Van Tiggelen – Wouters, Rijkaard, E Koeman (Richard Witschge 79) – Gullit, Van Basten, Kieft.

Belgium's Marc Emmers.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

June 6 – Brussels – intl friendly
Belgium 1 (Marc Emmers 52)
Poland 1 (Jacek Ziober 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,634.
Belgium: Preud'homme – Gerets, Clijsters (Demol 46), Albert (Grun 46), De Wooff, Emmers, Van der Elst, Scifo, Degryse, B. Versavel, Van der Linden.
Poland: Wandzik (Bako 54) – Kubicki, Cziakowski (P. Soczynski 76), Wdowczyk, Kaczmarek, Prusik, Ziober, Tarasiewicz, R. Warzycham, Dziekanowski (Lukasik 62), Kosecki.

June 6 – Trondheim – intl friendly
Norway 1 (Jorn Andersen 88pen)
Denmark 2 (Flemming Poulsen 20, Michael Laudrup 32)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,035. **Ref.** Bo Persson (Swe).
Norway: By Rise – K. P. Lokken, Johnsen, Bratseth, Halle, J. O. Pedersen, Ludvigsen (Gulbrandsen 46), Riisnes (J. I. Jakobsen 46), Skammelsrud, Andersen, Fjortoft.
Denmark: Ramussen – Sivebaek, K. Nielsen, Hansen, H. Andersen, Bruun, Jensen, Vilfort, Poulsen (J. J. Jensen 85), M. Laudrup, Christensen (Frandsen 57).

OTHER MATCHES

May 25: Valencia 1, Argentina 1.
May 28: Umbria XI 1, Brazil 0.
May 29: Cagliari 0, England 6.
May 30: Malta U21 1, Eire U21 1.
June 2: Italy 3, Cannes 0.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-finals, second legs
09. 05. 90 Sov Union v Sweden 2-0 Sov Union 3-1 on agg
09. 05. 90 Italy v Yugoslavia 2-2 Yugoslavia on away goals: 2-2 agg

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN RESULTS AND TABLES

Group 2 final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente (Arg)	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
River Plate (Arg)	2	0	1	1	0	1	1

(Both teams qualify for second round due to withdrawal of Colombian teams.)

First round group 3
April 11 in Santiago, Chile
COLO COLO (Chile) 0
UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA (Chile) 0
Ref: Carlos Robles (Chile). **Att:** 35,000.
Colo Colo: Moron, Espineza, Vilches, Garrido, Margas, Ormeno, Pizarro, Diaz, Barticciotto, Dabrowsky, Salgado.
Universidad Catolica: Cornes, Romero, Abarca, Monardes, Estay, Horman, Del Solar, Reinoso, Barrera, Olivares, Perez.
In an exciting game, both teams went out for goals and created danger at both ends. The university club came close in the first 30 minutes, but Colo Colo controlled play more later.

April 11 in Lima, Peru.
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 0
UNION HUARAL (Peru) 0
Floodlight failure suspended this game after 57 minutes and it was completed the following day, but when the lights went out it was the best thing that could have happened. The game was incredibly poor and neither team played up to its usual form.

April 17 in Lima, Peru
SPORTING CRISTAL (Peru) 0
UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA (Chile) 0
Ref: Armando Aliaga (Bolivia). **Att:** 11,500
Sporting Cristol: Gonzalez, Arteaga, Argueso, Oleachea, Olivares, Manassero (Novella), Kopriva, Fernandez, Cincuenegu (Calvo), Galvan, Dall'Orso.
Universidad Catolica: Cornez, Romero, Abarca, Morandee, Perez, Horman (Parraguez), Del Solar, Reinoso, Estay, Tupper (Contreras), Monge.
Sporting Cristal attacked from the start, but were given few chances by the tight Chilea defensive set-up while goalkeeper Cornez also made some good saves.

First round group 4
February 25
In Montevideo, Uruguay.
DEFENSOR SPORTING (Uruguay) 0
PROGRESO (Uruguay) 0
Ref: Jorge Nieves (Uruguay).
Defensor Sporting: Arbiza, Ferreira, Michelini, Gastan, Almada, Cardozo (Jaime), Falero, Silva, Cantera, Martinez, Tejera.
Progreso: Rocco, Ramos, Machain, Pua, F.Silva, Berger, Acosta, Pedrucci, Miqueiro, Larrea (Carreira), P. Silva.
Progreso were a bit better in the first half and the little danger to the goals came from them, but both sides played a close marking, poor game putting more intent on gaining midfield control than going for goals. Defensor Sporting had a couple of good chances in the second half, although they played most of it with 10 men, having Falero sent off five minutes after the restart. Progreso were playing under new coach Walter Roque who took over when Saul Rivero, who had taken the club to the first division title, resigned.

In Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela.
MINEROS DE GUYANA (Venezuela) 1 (Fernandez)
PEPEGANGA MARGARITA (Venezuela) 0
HT: 0-0
Mineros de Guyana: Baena, Hernandez, Goncalvez, Alvarez, Quintero, Yatis, Gonzalez, Leites, Samuel, Fernandez, Rivas.
Pepeganga Margarita: Garcia, Isea, Becerra, Casadiego, Arroyo, Carrero, Marcano, Perez, Cortes, Gomez, Betancourt.
Mineros pressed for most of the match, but had to fight hard to finally score the only goal 14 minutes from the end. Pepganga only tried to get out of defence in the final minutes when they tried to equalise, It was the first ever match for both teams in the Libertadores Cup.

March 4 in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela
MINEROS DE GUYANA (Venezuela) 1 (Leites)
PROGRESO (Uruguay) 3 (Pedrucci, Miqueiros, Acosta)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** J. J. Torres (Uruguay).
Mineros: Baeana, Quintero, Alvarez, Goncalves, Torres, Rivas (Mez), Gonzalez, Leite, Yantis (Arreaza), Fernandez, Samuel.
Progreso: Rocco, Ramos, Machain, Pua, F. Silva, Berger, Acosta, Pedrucci (Gomez), Miqueiro, Larrea, P.Silva.
Progreso dominated the midfield all the way and made good use of the Venezuelan team's defensive mistakes.

March 7 in San Cristobal, Venezuela.
PEPEGANGA (Venezuela) 1 (Santana)
PROGRESO (Uruguay) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** J. J. Toro (Colombia). **Att:** 10,000.
Pepeganga: Garcia, Montaner, Becerra, Casadiego, Arroyo, Carrero, Marcano, Perez, Cortez, Bentancourt, Santana.
Progreso: Rocco, Ramos, Machain, Pua, F. Silva, Berger, Acosta, Pedrucci, Miqueiro, Larrea, P. Silva.
This even match, with both teams constantly fighting for midfield control, could have been a draw. Pepeganga soaked up early pressure to even the match up later and they might have scored more if they had not played so carefully.

March 11 in San Cristobal, Venezuela
PEPEGANGA (Venezuela) 1 Cortez)
DEFENSOR SPORTING (Uruguay) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Guillermo Quirola (Ecuador).
Pepeganga: Garcia, Montanez, Becerra, Marcano, Arroyo, Carrero, Peres (Vera), Gomez, Cortes, Santana, Betancourt (Castro).
Defensor Sporting: Arbiza, Ferreira, Rodriquez, Cantera, Michelini, Gastan, Almada, Tejera, Martinez, Cardoso (Larranaga), Dalmao.
Pepeganga gained a surprising home "double" over their Uruguayan rivals. Attacking from the start, they took the lead after four minutes and then marked closely and withstood Uruguayan attacks, even with 10 men in the last 20 minutes as Santana was sent off for fighting.

March 15 in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela.
MINEROS DE GUYANA (Venezuela) 0
DEFENSOR SPORTING (Uruguay) 0
Att: 20,000.
Mineros failed to take some goal chances and were slightly better than Defensor Sporting who marked closely, but lacked precision in their team work.

March 21 in San Cristobal, Venezuela.
PEPEGANGA (Venezuela) 2 (Betancourt, Coll)
MINEROS DE GUYANA (Venezuela) 1 (Samuel)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Jose Castro (Venezuela).
Pepeganga: Garcia (Granados), Montaner, Becerra, Vera, Arroyo, Marcano, Carrero, Gomez, Cortez, Coll, Betancourt.
Mineros: Baena, Torres, Alvarez, Meza, Quintero, Gonzalez, Yantis (Arreaza), Lopes, Leites, Samuel, Ildemaro.
Pepeganga qualified for a second round place with this deserved victory showing quick short passing which put the opposing defence in difficulty and also marking well to keep their rivals at bay. Mineros had Arreaza sent off in the second half.

In Montevido, Uruguay.
DEFENSOR SPORTING (Uruguay) 1 (Martinez)
PROGRESO (Uruguay) 1 (Larrea)
HT: 0-1.
Defensor Sp: Arbiza, Ferreira, Rodriguez, Michelini, Gastan, Silva Cantera (Larrana), Falero, Almada, Maretinez, Cardozo, Tejera.
Progreso: Rocco, Leonardo Ramos, Machain, Pua, F. Silva, Berger, V. Silva, Gomez, Miqueiro, Larrea (Luis Ramos), P. Silva.
Defensor were more dangerous in the first half with Sergio Martinez, their most dangerous attacker, hitting a post and just having a header deflected. Martinez also brought Rocco to two good saves in the second half which had goal written all over them. Overall it was a poor game.

First round group 4
March 26 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
PROGRESO (Uruguay) 1 (Pedrucci)
MINEROS GUYANA (Venezuela) 1 (Hernandez)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ulyses Tavares (Brazil).
Att: 2,000.
Progreso: Rocco, Machain, Pua, Ramos, V. Silva (L. Ramos), F. Silva (Delgado), Miqueiro, Berger, Larrea, Pedrucci, P. Silva.
Mineros: Baena, Torres, Alvarez, Mesa, Quinteros, Tantis (Hernandez), Gonzalez, Lopez, Leites, Samuel, Fernandez.
Progreso attacked more, but were well stopped by careful defence in which Alvarez, Mesa and Lopez stood out.

March 26 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
DEFENSOR SPORTING (Uruguay) 1 (Cardozo)
PEPEGANGA (Venezuela) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Luis C. Felix (Brazil). **Att:** 2,000.
Defensor Sporting: Arbiza, Ferreira, Rodriguez, Michelini, Gastan, Silva, Cantera, Falero, Almada, Tejera, Martinez, Cardozo.
Pepeganga: Garcia, Arroyo, Becerra, Montaner, Marcana, Carrero, Perez, Gomez, Cortez, Coll, Betancourt.
Defensor Sporting were on top for most of the game, but could rarely get past a close marking, tight defence which generally waited at the back for their rivals. The home team's passing was also poor, as was the match. Pepeganga had already qualified for the second round before it started.

March 29 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
PROGRESOR (Uruguay) 2 (Larrea, P. Silva pen)
PEPEGANGA (Venezuela) 0
Ref: Juan Bava (Argentina). **Att.** 1,500.
Progreso: Rocco, Ramos, Machain, Pua, F. Silva, Berger, V. Silva, Pedrucci, Miqueiro, Larrea, P. Silva.
Pepeganga: Granados, Arroyo, Vera, Beccera, Montaner, Betancourt, Carrero, Marcano, Castro, Santana, Cortez.
Progreso took the lead from the kick-off and continued to dominate with midfielders Pedrucci and Berger standing out while Pepeganga were content to defend.

March 29 in Montevideo, Uruguay.
DEFENSOR SPORTING (Uruguay) 3 (Alvarez, Almada, S. Martinez)
MINEROS GUYANA (Venezuela) 1 (Samuel)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 1,500.
An easy victory for Defensor Sporting who already led 3-0 at the break.

April 4 in Montevideo, Uruguay
PROGRESO (Uruguay) 4 (Miqueiro 2, P. Silva, Berger)
DEFENSOR SPORTING (Uruguay) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ernesto Filipp (Uruguay).
Att: 2,000.
Progreso: Rocco, Machain, Ramos, Pua, F. Silva, Berger, V. Silva, Pedrucci, Miqueiro, Larrea, P. Silva.
Defensor Sporting: Arbiza, Rodriguez, Ferreira, Madrid, Cabrera, Almada, Falero, Silva Cantera, Tejera, Martinez, Cardozo.
The two teams shared top place in the group and had to play off for first place to decide the second round draw. Progreso were on top all the way with Defensor Sporting defending, but they could not hold out in the second half when Progreso scored all four goals in the last 25 minutes.

Group 4 final standings (after playoff)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Progreso (Urug)	7	3	3	1	11	4	9
Defensor Sp.(Urug)	7	2	3	2	5	7	7
Pepeganga (Venez)	6	3	0	3	4	5	6
Min Guyana (Venez)	6	1	2	3	5	9	4

(Mineros eliminated)

First round group 5
March 14 in Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 2 (Jara, Heyn, Monzon pen.)
CERRO PORTENO (Paraguay) 1 (Perez)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 40,000.
Olimpia: Almeida, Mino, Chamas, Fernandez, Suarez, Jara Heyn, Balbuena, Guasch, Monzon, Gonzalez, Franco (Sanabria).
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Barrios, Candia, Cristaldo, Jacquet, Garay, Riveros, Sotelo (Perez), Bataglia, Palacios, Villagra.
Olimpia were the better team in the first half with some outstanding individual performances by 19-year-old Monzon and winger Gonzalez, and they fully justified their 2-0 half-time lead. But in the second half, which Olimpia played with 10 men – Balbuena was sent off seven minutes before the break – Cerro Porteno dominated, lacking penetration in attack. Just after the match ended, linesman Asterio Martinez was knocked out by a stone thrown from the stands which was expected to bring sanctions for home team Olimpia.

In Porto Alegre, Brazil.
GREMIO (Brazil) 2 (Nilson, Darci)
VASCO DA GAMA (Brazil) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 70,000.
Gremio: Mazaropi, Afinete, Vilson, Luis Eduardo, Helcio, Jandir, Cuca, Adilson Heleno, Darci, Nilson, Paulo Egidio.
Vasco da Gama: Acacio, Luis Carlos Winck, Marco Aurelio, Quinonez, Mazinho, Andrade, Tita, William, Bismarck, Bebeto, Roberto.
Gremio broke national Champions Vasco's 18-game unbeaten streak with two second half goals. It was Vasco's first defeat since November 6 in this opening Libertadores Cup tie for both clubs.

March 27 in Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 1 (Guasch)
GREMIO (Brazil) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Jorge Antequera (Bolivia).
Att: 28,000.
Olimpia: Almeida, Mino, Fernandez, Chamas, Santurio, Jara Heyn (Franco), Guasch, Cubilla, Monzon, Gonzalez, Samaniego.
Gremio: Mazaropi, Afinete, Luis Eduardo, Vilson, Helcio, Jandir, Heleno (Gerson), Cuca, Darci, Nilson, Paulo Egidio.
Olimpia scored three minutes from the end of a match in which they controlled play after the first half hour during which Gremio had been the better team.

March 30 in Asuncion, Paraquay.
CERRO PORTENO (Paraguay) 3 (Sanabria 2, Garay)
GREMIO (Brazil 1 (Cuca)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Oscar Ortube (Bolivia). **Att:** 30,000.
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Barrios, Cristaldi, Rivarola, Jacquet, Garay, Riveros, Battaglia, Perez, Palacis, Villagra.
Gremio: Masaropi, Alfinete, Luis Eduardo, Vilson, Elcio, Jandir, Geverton, Cuca, Darci, Nilson, Paulo Egidio.
Cerro Porteno were dangerous from the start with fast win play while Gremio played carefully without taking risks in attack and they had no first half goal chances. In the second half both teams went for goals with Cerro Porteno eventually getting on top (after Gremio took a 55-minute lead) and scoring their three goals in the last 25 minutes.

April 3 in Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 2 (Gonzalez, Samaniego)
VASCO DA GAMA (Brazil) 1 (Tita)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000.
Olimpia: Almeida, Mino, Fernandez, Chamas, Santurio, Jara (Robson), Guasch, Balbuena, Monzon (Franco), Gonzalez, Samaniego.
Vasco da Gama: Acacio, Luiz Carlos, Celio, Marco Aurelio, Mazinho, Ze Do Carmo, Tita, Marco Anthonio, Didinho (Tato), Robert Dinamita, Bismarck.
In a fast, good game, with both teams playing attacking soccer, Vasco da Gama, with more organization, came closer to scoring and were a bit unlucky to lose with the winner coming eight minutes from the end.

April 6 in Asuncion, Paraguay.
CERRO PORTENO (Paraguay) 1 (Sanabria)
VASCO DA GAMA (Brazil) 1 (Tita)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Salvaro Imperatore (Chile).
Att: 30,000.
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Barrios, Cristaldo, Rivarola, Jacquet, Garay, Riveros, Sotelo, Battaglia, Palacios, Sanabria.
Vasco da Gama: Acacio, Luiz Carlos, Celio, Quinones (Marco Aurelio), Mazinho, Ze Do Carmo, Marco Antonio, Tita, Vivinho (Sorato), Roberto Dinamita, Bismarck.
Both teams went for goals and Vasco, with better ball control, came closer, but they only gained a deserved equalizer eight minutes from the end largely due to good goalkeeping by Cerro's Fernandez.

April 18 in Asuncion, Paraguay.
CERRO PORTENO (Paraguay) 3 (Battaglia 2, Villagra)
OLIMPIA (Paraguay) 2 (Samaniego, Robson Retamozo pen.)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,000.
Cerro Porteno: Fernandez, Barrios, Rivarola, Cristaldo, Jacquet, Garay, Riveros, Bobadilla, Battaglia, Sanabria, Villagra.
Olimpia: Almeida, Mino, Chamas, Fernandez, Santurio, Robson Retamozo (Nery), Balbuena, Guasch, Monzon (Cubilla), Gonzalez, Samaniego.
An excellent match with plenty of excitement, but Cerro were closer to victory while Olimpia tried to freeze the game. Battaglia was the winner's outstanding player and scoring of two goals – one being the winner nine minutes from the end when his team was down to 10 men, Bobadilla having been sent off with 15 minutes to go.

April 18 in Rio de Janeira, Brazil.
VASCO DA GAMA (Brazil) 0
GREMIO (Brazil) 0
Vasco da Gama: Acacio, Luis Carlos Winck, Celio, Ze Do Carmo, Mazinho, Andrade (William), Marco Anthonio, Tita, Bebeto, Sorato, Bismarck (Tato).
Gremio: Mazaropi Alfinete, Vilson, Luis Eduardo, Helcio, Jandir, Cuca, Lino, Darci, Nilson, Paulo Egidio.
This game was played in torrential rain and the muddy field slowed down the game, mainly hurting Vasco's play which relies on ball control and individual skills, mainly by their five national team players. Vasco were nevertheless always closer to scoring and unlucky not to do so on several occasions.

Group 5 standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia (Paraguay)	4	3	0	1	7	5	6
Cerro Porteno (Par)	4	2	2	0	8	6	6
Gremio (Brazil)	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
V. da Gama (Braz)	4	0	2	2	2	5	2

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS
March 25 – Melgar (Peru) 0 **Velez Sarsfield** (Argentina 2; **Union Huaral** (Peru) 4 **Deportivo Cali** (Colombia) 2

CONCACAF CHAMPION CLUBS FINAL
February 6
In Mexico City, Mexico – 2nd leg
UNIV. AUTONOMA DE MEXICO 3 (Vera, Campos, Negrete)
PINAR DEL RIO (Cuba) 1 (Garcia)
HT: 2-1
Universidad Autonoma de Mexico, better known as UNAM, won the championship for the third time after drawing 1-1 in the first leg of the final in Cuba who managed to get a team into the finals for the first time.

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE TABLES
ARGENTINA: National A Division (final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	38	20	13	5	48	20	53
Independiente	38	16	14	8	54	36	46
Boca Juniors	38	11	21	6	49	35	43
Rosario	38	16	13	9	45	35	43
Velez Sarsfield	38	14	14	10	46	32	42
Racing	38	11	17	10	34	34	39
Gimnasia	38	12	15	11	34	31	39
FC. Oeste	38	11	17	10	24	20	39
Arg. Juniors	38	13	12	13	42	40	38
Newell's	38	12	14	12	40	42	36
Talleres	38	12	14	12	45	46	36
Platense	38	13	10	15	35	40	36
Dep. Mandiyu	38	11	14	13	40	40	36
Union Santa Fe	38	10	16	12	40	43	36
San Lorenzo	38	10	15	13	44	50	35
Estudiantes	38	7	20	11	34	39	34
Chaco	38	10	12	16	40	56	32
Racing Cordoba	38	11	10	17	32	48	32
Dep Espanol	38	12	7	19	39	53	31
Instituto	38	8	10	20	31	56	26

(1) Two points taken off by FA. On average points in last three seasons, Instituto relegated and Chaco and Racing Cordoba to play off for second relegation place.

PERU: Regional Championship
Metropolitan zone (after 5 games): 1) Universitario 10 points; 2) Sport Boys 6; 3) International, Alianza Lima 5; 5) AELU, Municipal 4; 7) San Agustin, Sporting Cristal, Octavio Espinoza 3; 10) Defensor Lima, Union Huaral 2; 12) Meteor 1.

CHILE: Opening Tournament (one game to go in first stage) North zone: 1) Naval, Universidad Catolica 17 points; 3) Cobreloa, Huachipato, Cobresal 15; 6) Iquique, La Serena 13; 8) Palestino 7. South zone: 1) Union Espanola 20; 2) O'Higgins, Colo Colo 18; 4) Santiago Wanderers 14; 5) Concepcion 13; 6) Everton 12; 7) Universidad de Chile 10; 8

LETTERS

Foreign boss for England

SIR – Despite their fine performance against Holland in the World Cup, England have a great deal to do at all levels before we can hope to seriously compete for top international honours.

We are years behind the likes of Italy in terms of skill and technique. So, when the opportunity came to appoint a new manager maybe the powers that be at the Football Association should have considered giving the job to a leading foreign coach in an effort to introduce more flair and inject new ideas.

After all other nations have appointed foreign bosses with great success.
S. McADAM, CATFORD, LONDON SE6.

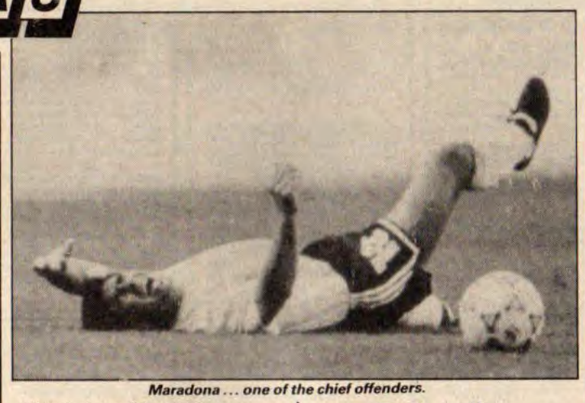
Inconsistent refs

SIR – I found your feature on World Cup referees by Stan Lover (June issue) most interesting and applauded FIFA's get tough policy.

In general refs did clamp down on rough play using the yellow card often and to great affect.

But I hope FIFA study the reports on their officials and take steps to reduce the inconsistency seen in this year's tournament.

There are two questions I'd like to see answered for a start. 1. Why did the French referee who took charge of the excellent Italy v Czechoslovakia game disallow Knofficek's headed goal. No one, including the ITV commentating team, could figure out why the Czech's were denied what looked to me a perfectly good equaliser. 2. Why the referee in charge of Argentina's game against Romania missed another blatant hand-ball by Maradona.
T. BARTON, Newport Pagnall, Bucks.



Maradona ... one of the chief offenders.

Great Gift

SIR – Many thanks for the 60 GLORIOUS YEARS booklet, given away free with the May issue. It is excellent.

Would you consider a similar gift covering the European Championship and European club competitions?

Keep up the good work!
R.FOWLER, Sittingbourne,Kent.
We are looking at a similar project for next year, Mr.Fowler.

Bad acting

SIR – It's about time FIFA clamped down on the disgraceful scenes of bad acting we've had to endure during Italia 90.

I was sickened at the way certain players went down as though pole-axed after a tackle, feigning a bad or serious injury to get an opponent booked or gain an unfair advantage.

In my opinion this year's World Cup has been the worst ever for this type of gamesmanship.

Looking at the situation from another point of view...referees will get so cynical that players with geniune injuries will receive no sympathy and treatment could be delayed.
HARRY THOMPSON, Stockport, Cheshire.

Press ban

SIR – Most of the unsavoury headlines from Italia 90 were supplied by non football journalists.

It is the newsmen who chase the gossip and often file stories with little foundation.

The front page headlines that alleged some England players were involved with an official hostess were disgraceful.

Accreditation for major tournaments and games should only be supplied to bonafide sports/football writers.

There should be no place in the World Cup for hacks who only wish to dig the dirt for the gutter press.
K.ANDREW, Christchurch, Hants.

Out of step

SIR – It seems referees in Italia 90 forgot all about the four-step rule for goalkeepers.

During one game a 'keeper took 12 steps before releasing the ball.

The most guilty to my mind was Holland's Hans van Breukelen and the 'keepers from some of the so called lesser nations such as Egypt and Cameroon.
PHIL CAMERON, Edinburgh.

Crazy ball game

SIR – Several commentators complained about the ball during the World Cup.

It certainly seemed to move much faster through the air than normal, making it extremely difficult for the players to keep it down when shooting from outside the box.

Adidas must have spent millions on the development of the ball they called the Utrusco.

But judging from the unpredictable flight of the ball it couldn't have been tested in match conditions.

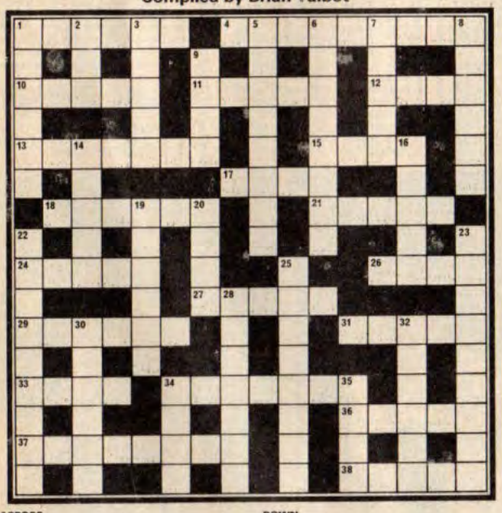
The ball might have been responsible for the number of free-kicks that failed to hit the target.

Maybe FIFA should consider buying British and testing a few of our footballs like the good old Minerva which is still used by many League clubs.

By the way...what does Utrusco mean?
ROGER WEIR, Shrewsbury.
The hi-tech ball gets its name from an ancient Italian people...the Etruscans. Through their art, sporting competitions and hunting nature the Etruscans had a decisive influence on the history of Italy long before the Roman era.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

Compiled by Brian Talbot



ACROSS
1. Peruvian defender in 1970.
4. Russian scorer in 1982.
10. Australian coach in 1974.
11. England centre-forward in 1970.
12. Brazilian half back in 1966.
13. Italian referee used in 1982.
15. Hat-trick scorer in Spain.
17. A star of the 1966 tournament.
18. Member of Argentina's 1978 winning team.
21. Russian who starred in 1958 and '62.
24. Ruben, South American who played in 1974.
26. Forename of Sweden's manager.
27. Yugoslav midfielder in 1974.
29. Member of Italy's 1970 losing team.
31. Forename of the 1978 winning manager.
33. First name of a Swedish star in 1958.
34. Brazilian defender in 1982.
36. A former World Cup winning manager.
37. Scots player in 1978.
38. Top scorer in 1982.

DOWN
1. A star of this year's tournament.
2. See 3 Down.
3. + 2 Down. Argentine forward in 1966.
5. England scorer in 1962.
6. Scorer in the 1974 Final.
7. Referee of the Battle of Berne.
8. Brazilian defender in 1978.
9. Dutch midfielder of the Seventies.
14. Uruguayan sent-off in the 1966 Quarter-Finals.
16. Hugo, Peruvian winger in 1970.
19. Spanish scorer in 1982.
20. Ferrucio, Italian manager in 1950.
22. Brazilian legend of three World Cups.
23. Russian forward in 1962 and '66.
25. Scorer of two semi-final goals in '86.
28. Manager of the 1986 World Champions.
30. Member of Argentina's 1966 side.
32. Portuguese winger in 1966.
34. Twice used as a World Cup venue.
35. Forename of Italian star of 1962.

JUNE SOLUTION. ACROSS 1. Campos. 4. Shengelia. 10. Rasic. 11. Astle. 12. Lima. 13. Casarin. 15. Kiss. 17. Bene. 10. Olguin. 21. Netto. 24. Ayala. 26. Olle. 27. Oblak. 29. Rosato. 31. Cesar. 33. Nils. 34. Leandro. 36. Moore. 37. Hartford. 38. Rossi.
DOWN 1. Careca. 2. Mas. 3. Oscar. 5. Hitchen. 6. Neeskens. 7. Ellis. 8. Amaral. 9. Haan. 14. Silva. 16. Setil. 19. Ufarte. 20. Novo. 22. Garrincha. 23. Metreveli. 25. Maradona. 28. Bilardo. 30. Solari. 32. Simoes. 34. Leon. 35. Omar.

PEN PALS

NIGERIAN BOY, 20, would like pen pals from all over the world. Enjoys football. Please write to: Obino Boy, 23 New Market Road, Orutska, Anambra State, Nigeria, West Africa.

18-YEAR-OLD MALE seeks pen pals worldwide. Hobbies are football, long distance running, swimming and reading. Write to: Ramabhani Suleiman, PO Box 25212, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

FEMALE STUDENT, 15, would like male and female pen pals worldwide aged 14-60. Hobbies are music, travelling, corresponding and exchanging items. Please write in English to: Jacquline Jackson Mbvuille, PO Box 143, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

HUNGARIAN seeks pen pals from all over the world, but especially Great Britain. Hobbies include collecting and exchanging football pennants. Write to: Jandi Attilo, Szolnok 5000, Rakoczi u. 40-42, Hungary.

18-YEAR-OLD CANADIAN MALE would like female pen pals worldwide, aged 17-19. Supports Rangers, Tottenham, Inter Milan and Bayern Munich. Write in English, French or German to: Chris Marschall, 16 Viamede Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, M2K 2AB, Canada.

MANCHESTER UNITED FAN, 21, wishes to correspond with football fans from Great Britain, Italy, Holland and West Germany. All letters answered. Write to: Gavin Isaccs, 32 Arthur Abrahams Avenue, Bishop Lavis 7490, Cape Town 8000, South Africa.

ROMANIAN FOOTBALL FAN would like to correspond with others from North Europe, African and South America. Hobbies include collecting football photos, flags, badges and scarves. Please write in English or French to: Banuta S'Andel, Strada Traian 248, Galati 6200, Romania.

WIMBLEDON FAN seeks pen pals worldwide, especially supporters of English first division clubs. Write to: Chinua Ihionu, 21 St. John's Cross, Onitsha, Anambra, Nigeria.

GHANIAN MALE, 22, would like male or female pen pals worldwide. Hobbies are music, exchanging items and corresponding. Write to: Nana Yaw Antior, Box No 92, Fanti New Town, Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa.

NIGERIAN MALE, 20, seeks male or female pen pals worldwide. Hobbies are soccer, table tennis and exchanging pictures. Write to: Nnamdi Limeano, PO Box 5493, Marina – Lagos, Lagos State, Nigeria, West Africa.

FOOTBALL FAN, 17, wishes to correspond with others worldwide. Hobbies include exchanging soccer magazines. Please write to: Stanley Ukadike, 16 Oguta Road, Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria.

LIVERPOOL FAN, 21, seeks pen pals from Reds' supporters worldwide. Write to: Mariusz Gamza, 43-246 Strumien, ul Powslancow Sl. 2A/7, Bielsko – Biaa, Poland.

26-YEAR-OLD FEMALE would like pen pals from all over the world. Hobbies are football, other sports, travelling and reading. All letters answered. Write in French or English to: France Peetroons, Dreve Du Duc, P33, 1170 Brussels, Belgium.

FOR SALE

VIDEO TAPES of greatest Romanian teams (Dinamo, Steaua, Uni Craiova) and national side. Also, football programmes and magazines. For sale at low prices. Write to: Som Teodor, Str. Rodica 2, Bl. Rodica, AP. 38, Ploiesti 2000, Romania.

EXCHANGES

ROMANIAN FOOTBALL STATISTICIAN would like to exchange magazines and statistics with football fans worldwide. Please write to: Romeo Ionescu, Str. Razboieni Nr. 9, 2000 Ploiesti, Romania.

26-YEAR-OLD ITALIAN seeks British pen pals with a view to exchanging football videos. Write to: Remo Gandolfi, Piazza Fornari 92, 43020 Mozzano, Parma, Italy.

BULGARIAN, 26, wishes to exchange football souvenirs, shirts, scarves etc., from English supporters. Write to: Rumen Danailor, PO Box N45, 1592 Sofia – 92, Bulgaria.

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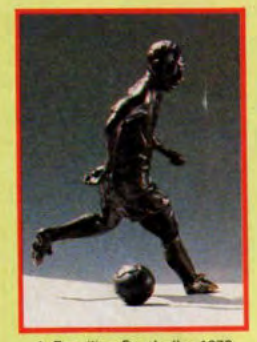

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